

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

July 2009

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 1344 Resolve, To Authorize a Pilot Project on Ranked Choice Voting

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RUSSELL ALFOND	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This resolve establishes a 2-year pilot project overseen by the Secretary of State that involves ranked choice voting to determine a majority winner in municipal elections with 3 or more candidates. The pilot project will involve up to 10 municipalities selected by the Secretary of State to implement ranked choice voting in municipal elections that are held at a different time than a statewide election, are secret ballot elections and are for offices in which only one candidate is being selected. The ranked choice voting ballot allows the voter to rank in descending order of preference the voter's second and subsequent choices for office after marking the voter's first choice for office. If, after the initial round of voting there is not a majority winner, the candidate with the least amount of votes is eliminated with all choices behind that candidate moved up in preference on each ballot. A second and subsequent rounds of voting are held using this process until a candidate receives a majority of votes for the office. For purposes of the rights of political parties, the amount of votes a candidate of a political party receives in the first round of tabulation is considered the amount of votes that candidate received in the election for that office. This resolve directs the Secretary of State to submit a report concerning the pilot project and any recommended legislation to the 125th Legislature.

**LD 1345 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Increase the Required Number of Signatures for a Direct Initiative
or a People's Veto and To Limit a Direct Initiative to One Subject**

Carried Over

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL SULLIVAN		

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to increase the number of signatures that a petitioner must gather for a people's veto or a direct initiative from not less than 10% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election to not less than 20% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election. It also limits a direct initiative to one subject.

LD 1346 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Games of Chance

PUBLIC 224

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRIGGS BRYANT B	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-267

This bill amends the laws governing games of chance, including licensed card games such as "Texas hold 'em," to increase from 40 to 80 the number of players that are allowed at any one time at any one location.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-267)

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

This amendment decreases from 80 to 50 the number of players permitted at a licensed game of cards and requires the Chief of the State Police to submit a report.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 224 allows for up to 50 players at a licensed game of cards and requires the Chief of the State Police to submit a report by February 15, 2010 regarding the number of players at licensed games of cards.

**LD 1379 An Act To Authorize the Operation of Slot Machines on the
Passamaquoddy Reservation**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SOCTOMAH RAYE	ONTP	

This bill allows the Passamaquoddy Tribe to be licensed to operate not more than 100 slot machines on the Pleasant Point Reservation and Indian Township Reservation in Washington County in conjunction with high-stakes beano. The license would be subject to existing licensing requirements and oversight by the Gambling Control Board. The initial license fee for the slot machine license, based on the maximum of 100 machines, would be \$10,000 and the annual renewal fee is \$3,000. One percent of the gross slot machine revenue would be required to be deposited to the General Fund. Fourteen percent of the net slot machine revenue from slot machines operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe would be distributed as follows:

1. One percent to the General Fund for administrative expenses of the board, including gambling addiction counseling services, in accordance with rules adopted by the board;
2. Two percent to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund;
3. Two percent to the Maine Community College System to fund its scholarships program;
4. One percent to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services;
5. Two percent to the Maine Technology Institute;
6. Two percent to an economic development council in Washington County;
7. One percent to homeless shelters;
8. Two percent to be forwarded to other federally recognized Indian tribes in the State that are not licensed to operate slot machines; and
9. One percent to the Ronald McDonald House in Bangor, an organization that provides housing to families of chronically ill children in connection with the treatment of those children.