

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

April 2010

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND 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 Second 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:

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. 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 1730

An Act To Strengthen the Ballot Initiative Process

PUBLIC 611

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-443 S-481 SULLIVAN S-487 TRAHAN

This bill repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 904 and enacts a new section 904-C to conform with technical drafting standards. It requires that the penalties for violating this section include a mandatory \$1,000 fine that may not be suspended. It also prohibits a person who has been convicted of fraud or forgery in the last five years from circulating a petition. The bill requires that a person or entity receiving compensation for collecting signatures on a petition or a person or entity compensating another person for collecting signatures on a petition shall register with the Secretary of State. Failing to register is a Class E crime that includes a mandatory fine of \$1,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for a company. Funds generated by the fines for failing to register must be paid to the Maine Clean Election Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-443)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill. The amendment requires a unique identifier on petitions for a direct initiative of legislation and people's veto referendum that comprises the circulator's initials and a sequential number representing the petitions circulated. It also requires that a petition must be signed and notarized prior to being submitted to a municipal clerk for verification. It directs the clerk to make copies of all petitions submitted for verification by circulators. The amendment creates a registration requirement for petition organizations that are compensated to organize, supervise or manage the circulation of petitions for a direct initiative or people's veto. The amendment extends the amount of time that a person has to challenge the decision of the Secretary of State to reject or certify petitions from five to 10 days and reduces the number of days the Superior Court has to rule on the challenge from 45 to 40 days. Finally, the amendment makes a correction to the statute to comply with a 1998 Maine Supreme Judicial Court decision that denies the right of de novo trial to a person challenging the decision of the Secretary of State to reject or certify petitions. The amendment also makes the statute consistent with the Constitution of Maine, which allows for a total of 100 days for a final decision on the certification of a petition for a direct initiative or a people's veto.

Senate Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-481)

This amendment removes language requiring the registrar to make a copy of each petition. It retains language requiring the registrar to make a copy of a petition that the registrar suspects was submitted in violation of petition requirements.

Senate Amendment "C" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-487)

This amendment does the following.

1. It removes language from Committee Amendment "A" requiring the circulator of a petition to affix a unique identifier to the top and bottom of each page of a petition, and instead amends existing law to require the Secretary of State to provide space on each petition page intended for signatures for the inclusion of a unique identifying number to accompany the name of the circulator.
2. It provides that if petitions are not signed and verified before being submitted to the registrar, the registrar is required only to return the petitions.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009 chapter 611 requires the Secretary of State to provide space on each petition page intended for signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto for the inclusion of a unique identifying number to accompany the name of the circulator on that petition. This law requires the municipal clerk or registrar to make a copy of a petition for a direct initiative or people's veto that the clerk or registrar suspects was submitted in violation of petition requirements. It creates a registration requirement for petition organizations that are compensated to organize, supervise or manage the circulation of petitions for a direct initiative or people's veto. This law also extends the amount of time that a person has to challenge the decision of the Secretary of State to reject or certify petitions from five to 10 days and reduces the number of days the Superior Court has to rule on the challenge from 45 to 40 days. Chapter 611 makes a correction to the statute to comply with a 1998 Maine Supreme Judicial Court decision that denies the right of de novo trial to a person challenging the decision of the Secretary of State to reject or certify petitions. This law also makes the statute consistent with the Constitution of Maine, which allows for a total of 100 days for a final decision on the certification of a petition for a direct initiative or a people's veto.

LD 1731 **An Act To Modernize the Bingo Laws**

PUBLIC 505

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL W SULLIVAN	OTP-AM	H-646

This bill authorizes the use of a lucky seven dispenser by a licensed Indian tribe in connection with the sale of lucky seven tickets or raffle tickets. It also defines "lucky seven dispenser." In addition it specifies that rules pertaining to beano equipment do not apply to high-stakes beano. The bill also repeals the provision of law that allows an organization to operate high-stakes beano games on 27 weekends per year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-646)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides that an Indian tribe licensed to conduct high-stakes beano and licensed to sell lucky seven or other similar tickets may use a dispenser to sell the tickets. The amendment specifies that the tickets dispensed must provide the element of chance, not the dispenser. The amendment provides that the Chief of the State Police may adopt routine technical rules to facilitate the use of dispensers. The amendment also changes the title of the bill and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 505 provides that an Indian tribe licensed to conduct high-stakes beano and licensed to sell lucky seven or other similar tickets may use a dispenser to sell the tickets. The law specifies that the tickets dispensed must provide the element of chance, not the dispenser. Chapter 505 provides that the Chief of the State Police may adopt routine technical rules to facilitate the use of dispensers.

LD 1759 **Resolve, To Transfer the Ownership of the Fort Kent Armory from the Military Bureau to the University of Maine at Fort Kent**

RESOLVE 212

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J L JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-831 TRINWARD