

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

June 2012

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. NICH S. FARNHAM, CHAIR  
SEN. DEBRA D. PLOWMAN  
SEN. JOHN L. PATRICK

REP. MICHAEL G. BEAULIEU, CHAIR  
REP. JARROD S. CROCKETT  
REP. MICHAEL J. WILLETTE  
REP. DOUGLAS K. DAMON  
REP. DAVID D. JOHNSON  
REP. MICHAEL E. CAREY  
REP. LINDA M. VALENTINO  
REP. DIANE RUSSELL  
REP. THOMAS R. W. LONGSTAFF  
REP. BENJAMIN M. CHIPMAN  
REP. WAYNE T. MITCHELL

**STAFF:**

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

# STATE OF MAINE

125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <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; legislation died</i>                         |
| <i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....                          | <i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>                                    |
| <i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....                          | <i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>                |
| <i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....                          | <i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>                            |
| <i>EMERGENCY</i> .....                                    | <i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>            |
| <i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> ..... | <i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>                                     |
| <i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....           | <i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>   |
| <i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....                    | <i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>                      |
| <i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....                             | <i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i> |
| <i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....                            | <i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>                                 |
| <i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....                 | <i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>                     |
| <i>INDEF PP</i> .....                                     | <i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>  |
| <i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ... | <i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>                               |
| <i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....                                  | <i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; 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>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 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, August 30, 2012. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

**LD 120**      **An Act To End Taxpayer-funded Campaigns for Gubernatorial Candidates**      **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CLARK T           | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature and eliminates Maine Clean Election Act funding for gubernatorial candidates.

**LD 199**      **Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Study Voter Participation and Registration and the Conduct of Elections in the State**      **RESOLVE 133**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>    | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CEBRA<br>SNOWE-MELLO | OTP-AM MAJ<br>ONTP MIN  | H-733                     |

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature and requires that a voter provide proof of identity with photograph identification approved by the Secretary of State by rule for the purpose of voting.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-733)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Secretary of State to conduct a study of voter participation, the system governing voter registration and the conduct of elections and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters by February 1, 2013.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2011, chapter 133, directs the Secretary of State to conduct a study of voter participation, the system governing voter registration and the conduct of elections and to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters by February 1, 2013.

**LD 227**      **An Act Relating to the Establishment of Casinos**      **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VALENTINO         | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature and authorizes the establishment of three casinos in the State subject to a competitive bidding process. A successful bidder would win the right to enter into a contract with the State to operate a casino for up to 20 years. A successful bidder is subject to a privilege fee of \$5,000,000 to operate a casino. An existing slot machine operator would also be authorized to enter into a contract with the State to operate a casino at the existing slot machine facility without being subject to the competitive bidding process. The privilege fee for a casino that was an existing slot machine facility is \$3,000,000. As determined by a contract with the State, the state share of net gaming revenue from the casinos would be divided

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

equally among three funds that reimburse municipalities for education, veterans property tax exemptions and homestead property tax exemptions.

**LD 643      An Act To Protect Public Safety in the Operation of Casinos**

**PUBLIC 469  
EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CAREY             | OTP-AM                  | H-547<br>S-368 ROSEN R    |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. It proposes to amend the laws governing the oversight of the casino eligible to be licensed in Oxford County that are determined to be incomplete or inconsistent with existing laws and rules in other states that authorize the operation of casino gambling.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-547)**

This amendment replaces the bill, which was a concept draft. The amendment includes an emergency preamble and clause. The amendment requires the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to adopt emergency major substantive rules governing the oversight of the operation of table games at a casino. The rules must ensure that bets on table games are not made with cash and that the exchange of cash for chips, tokens or other items of value is done in a manner that can provide a thorough audit. The amendment requires the board to report on the process for developing rules that govern the rules of play for table games. The amendment changes current law to provide that license and application fees collected by the board go to a dedicated account for the administration of the board rather than to the General Fund.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-368)**

Committee Amendment "A" requires fees collected from slot machine operators and casinos to be deposited in the Administrative Expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board instead of in the General Fund. This amendment exempts the fees associated with a casino located in Oxford County and a slot machine facility licensed as such as of January 1, 2011, from that requirement for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 only and requires those fees from that casino and that slot machine facility to be deposited in the General Fund.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, Chapter 469 requires the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to adopt emergency major substantive rules governing the oversight of the operation of table games at a casino. The rules must ensure that bets on table games are not made with cash and that the exchange of cash for chips, tokens or other items of value is done in a manner that can provide for a thorough audit. This law requires the board to report on the process for developing rules that govern the rules of play for table games. It also changes current law to provide that future license and application fees collected by the board go to a dedicated account for the administration of the board rather than to the General Fund, except for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13, when those fees will be deposited into the General Fund.

LD 643 was enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature but was held by the Governor. It became law in the Second Regular Session as an emergency measure effective January 9, 2012.