

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

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

July 2011

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STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 First 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.

*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; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY* ..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 28, 2011. 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*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-39)**

This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with a resolve directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to adopt routine technical rules that require equipment purchased using Maine Clean Election Act funds to be sold for at least 75% of the original purchase price if that equipment is sold to the candidate or to a member of the candidate's immediate family or campaign staff. Current rules require that the item be sold for at least 40% of the purchase price.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2011, chapter 19 directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to adopt routine technical rules that require equipment purchased using Maine Clean Election Act funds to be sold for at least 75% of the original purchase price if that equipment is sold to the candidate or to a member of the candidate's immediate family or campaign staff. Current rules require that the item be sold for at least 40% of the purchase price.

**LD 277**

**An Act To Make Disputed Ballots in State Elections Public**

**PUBLIC 258**

Sponsor(s)

FOSSEL  
RECTOR

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-178

This bill requires the Secretary of State to make available for public inspection a disputed ballot arising from an election recount and specifies that the manner of making an absentee ballot available for public inspection must preserve the voter's anonymity.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-178)**

This amendment specifies that the Secretary of State is required to make available for public inspection only copies of unresolved disputed ballots rather than the actual ballots. It also limits this public inspection of copies of disputed ballots to elections for the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. The amendment also specifies that the Secretary of State must retain these copies for two years.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 258 requires the Secretary of State to make available for public inspection, copies of unresolved disputed ballots. This requirement applies to the public inspection of copies of disputed ballots to elections for the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. The law also specifies that the Secretary of State must retain these copies for two years.

**LD 285**

**An Act Regarding the Qualifications of Candidates for Office**

**PUBLIC 239**

Sponsor(s)

NASS  
HASTINGS

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-341

This bill requires the Secretary of State to certify that candidates for legislative office meet the age and residency requirements contained in the Constitution of Maine.