

# 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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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*

**LD 535**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to High-stakes Beano**

**PUBLIC 410**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL SCHNEIDER	OTP-AM A OTP-AM B ONTP C	H-402 H-606 Soctomah

This bill allows federally recognized Indian tribes in Maine licensed to sell sealed tickets to sell the tickets at any time. It also allows the operation of high-stakes beano games at any time and anywhere in the county that the Indian tribe has its primary seat of government and it reduces the annual license fee for operating high-stakes beano games to \$15,000.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-402)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It replaces the bill except for the emergency preamble, which the amendment retains. The amendment changes the restriction on the number of days that a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State may conduct high-stakes beano to 90 days, consisting of 30 events of up to three days each. The amendment changes the parcel of land on which the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may operate high-stakes beano. The amendment also provides that those eligible to conduct high-stakes beano may do so by operating electronic beano. Electronic beano is played on individual electronic beano terminals connected to a central computer system that simulates traditional beano but may not show any other form of gaming. Individual electronic beano terminals automatically mark purchased beano cards and may accept cash, cards, tokens, or vouchers but may not dispense cash. A prize awarded for winning electronic beano must be in the form of a voucher that may be redeemed for cash or prizes. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**House Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "B" (H-606)**

This amendment makes the following changes.

1. The amendment removes emergency provisions from the bill.
2. It provides that a federally recognized Indian tribe other than the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs may conduct high-stakes beano up to 100 days per year.
3. It maintains the fee for a high-stakes beano license at \$25,000 for two additional years.
4. It permits the Passamaquoddy Tribe to operate high-stakes beano in the City of Calais if approved by the city.
5. It removes from the committee amendment authority to conduct electronic beano.
6. It removes from the committee amendment the appropriations and allocations section.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 410 extends through 2013, the reduction of the fee to conduct high stakes beano from \$50,000 to \$25,000. It also permits the Passamaquoddy Tribe to conduct high stakes beano up to 100 days per year. Other federally recognized Indian tribes in the state eligible to conduct high stakes beano would still be subject to the provision that limits games to 27 weekends per year. The law also permits the Passamaquoddy Tribe to conduct high stakes beano in the municipality of Calais.