

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH 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
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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 125th 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 125th 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 848

Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices To Study Modifying the Maine Clean Election Act

RESOLVE 103

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK	OTP-AM	S-332 COURTNEY S-54

This resolve directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to study the Maine Clean Election Act to address any adverse rulings by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *McComish v. Bennett*, No. CV-08-1550-PHX-ROS (D. Ariz. Jan. 20, 2010) and to report its findings, including any suggested changes, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by October 15, 2011. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs shall report out legislation based on the report by December 1, 2011 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-54)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-332)

This amendment requires the State Controller to transfer \$3,250 from the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, Clean Elections Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Legislative, General Fund account in the Legislature to fund the costs of two interim meetings of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to review the report of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices on its study of the Maine Clean Election Act and report out legislation.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2011, chapter 103 directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to study the Maine Clean Election Act to address any adverse rulings by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *McComish v. Bennett*, No. CV-08-1550-PHX-ROS (D. Ariz. Jan. 20, 2010) and to report its findings, including any suggested changes, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by October 15, 2011. Under this resolve, the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs is required to report out legislation based on the report by December 1, 2011 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

LD 856

An Act To Change the Campaign Contribution Limits

PUBLIC 382

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	S-220 PLOWMAN S-297 PLOWMAN

This bill amends the laws governing campaign contribution limits by setting a maximum contribution of \$350 for a legislative candidate and \$750 for any other candidate, before adjustments for inflation.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-220)