

# 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**

**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)**

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

This amendment increases the maximum campaign contribution to a gubernatorial candidate from \$750 to \$1,500.

**Senate Amendment "B" (S-297)**

This amendment delays until January 1, 2012 the increase in the contribution limit from \$350 to \$750 for contributions to candidates for municipal office.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 382 increases the contribution limit for gubernatorial candidates from \$750 to \$1500 and provides that beginning January 1, 2012 the contribution limit for municipal and other non-legislative candidates is \$750. The contribution limit of \$350 for legislative candidates is not affected by this law.

**LD 864      An Act Regarding the Minimum Stock Required by Agency Liquor Stores      PUBLIC 140**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON	OTP-AM	S-69

This bill reduces the minimum dollar amount of product an agency liquor store is required to stock in order to be licensed from \$10,000 to \$5,000. The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety to amend its rules to implement the provisions of the bill.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-69)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes a minimum number of product codes an agency liquor store must maintain as a licensee.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 140 provides that an agency liquor store located in a municipality with a population of 999 or less is only required to carry a minimum of 50 different spirit product codes. All other agency liquor stores are required to carry a minimum of 100 different spirit product codes.

**LD 896      An Act To Adopt the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act      Carried Over**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARNHAM KATZ		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes the adoption in this State of the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act approved and recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and the incorporation of the provisions of the uniform act into the State's election laws.

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1190.