

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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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 1265 An Act To Allow the Unclaimed Remains of a Veteran To Have Proper Burial

PUBLIC 318

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARNHAM	OTP-AM	S-231

This bill allows a funeral director or other authorized person to determine the veteran status of cremated remains left in the possession of the funeral director or other authorized person for over 120 days and, if the remains are those of a veteran, to relinquish control of or dispose of the remains to a veterans' service organization to be finally disposed of in a national cemetery or other cemetery that memorializes or recognizes the graves of veterans.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-231)

This amendment increases the time period in the bill after which a funeral director may dispose of or relinquish possession of a veteran's cremated remains from 120 days to one year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 318 allows a funeral director or other authorized person to determine the veteran status of cremated remains left for over one year in the possession of the funeral director or other authorized person and, if the remains are those of a veteran, to relinquish control of or dispose of the remains to a veterans' service organization to be finally disposed of in a national cemetery or other cemetery that memorializes or recognizes the graves of veterans.

LD 1277 An Act To Exempt Contributions for the Retirement of Old Campaign Debt from Contribution Limits

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN	ONTP	

This bill provides an exception to the law that limits campaign contributions. It provides that contributions may exceed the limit if their purpose is to retire campaign debt that is at least six years old. In order to accept these contributions in excess of the limit, the former candidate may not be serving in office or be a candidate for office.

LD 1300 An Act To Create a Consolidated Liquor License and Amend the Laws Governing Agency Liquor Stores

PUBLIC 460

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CRAVEN	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-226

Current law limits the number of agency liquor stores that sell spirits based on the population of a municipality. This bill removes those limits. The bill provides that beginning January 1, 2012 a municipality may establish a limit for agency liquor stores through action of the governing body or a popular referendum. The bill also provides for a