

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2014

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STAFF:

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

*Committee member for the duration of the absence of Rep. David D. Johnson.

STATE OF MAINE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 31

An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Fraternal and Veterans' Organizations

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK BRIGGS	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill permits the Gambling Control Board, beginning January 1, 2014 to issue a license to a charitable nonprofit organization that is a fraternal organization or a veterans' organization that is tax-exempt under the federal Internal Revenue Code to operate up to five slot machines on premises that are owned or leased by the organization, serve as its primary headquarters for fulfilling its charitable mission and are located in a municipality that has, by referendum of the voters, approved the operation of slot machines in that municipality. The organization must be able to demonstrate that it has a cash reserve of \$2,000 for each machine the organization intends to operate. An organization that wishes to apply prior to January 1, 2014 may file a declaration of intent to apply with the Gambling Control Board. An application must include a refundable \$5,000 deposit. The initial application fee for a slot machine operator license is \$1,000, and the annual renewal fee is \$350. A slot machine operated by a charitable nonprofit organization is subject to the same central site monitoring that applies to casinos and slot machine facilities at harness racing tracks. The total number of slot machines allowed to be operated by charitable nonprofit organizations statewide is 250. 10% of the net slot machine income is required to be deposited directly with the Gambling Control Board for administrative expenses; 8% goes directly to the General Fund; 10% goes to the host municipality; and 2% is dedicated to gambling addiction prevention and treatment. A charitable nonprofit organization that is licensed to operate slot machines is required to establish a separate account, from which the board may withdraw funds to distribute the net revenue percentages. The remaining revenue generated from the slot machines must be used to support the charitable purposes of the fraternal organization or veterans' organization.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-399)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the majority report of the committee. It amends the bill to provide that charitable fraternal organizations are not included in the definition of "eligible organization." The amendment provides that an eligible organization, which under the amendment is a veterans' organization, may apply to the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to operate up to three slot machines at the organization's premises, instead of five as proposed in the bill. The total number of slot machines available to be operated by all licensed eligible organizations is reduced from 250 to 150 under this amendment. The amendment also reduces the initial license fee from \$1,000 to \$500 and the annual renewal fee from \$350 to \$175. The amendment also reduces the administrative deposit required with the application from \$5,000 to \$2,500 and the amount required to be held in segregated accounts per machine from \$2,000 to \$1,000. It also provides that the Gambling Control Board may start accepting applications on January 1, 2015, rather than January 1, 2014 as provided in the bill. The amendment also includes technical changes to the bill to reflect changes made by Public Law 2013, chapter 212.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-400)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority report of the committee. It adds off-track betting facilities in operation as of January 1, 2013 to the definition of "eligible organization." Under the bill, an eligible organization is authorized to operate up to five slot machines. The amendment provides that an eligible organization that is a charitable nonprofit organization may operate up to five slot machines and that an eligible organization that is an off-track betting facility may operate as many as 50 slot machines. The amendment also requires a distribution of 45% of net revenues from slot machines operated by an off-track betting facility, which includes 33% to be deposited into the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund. The amendment also includes technical changes to the bill to reflect changes made by Public Law 2013, chapter 212.