

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<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**

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# STATE OF MAINE

126<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* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<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 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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*

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. Ten percent 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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 53      An Act To Increase Voting Access      ONTP**

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

This bill provides that a person may vote by absentee ballot in the presence of a municipal clerk until the close of business on the day before election day. Current law requires such voting to be completed no later than three business days before election day.

**LD 54      An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N CLEVELAND	ONTP	

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the third day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a third person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

**LD 69      An Act To Strengthen Financial Disclosure Laws for the Legislative and Executive Branches of State Government      ONTP**

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

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

This bill proposes to amend the financial disclosure laws for Legislators and certain executive branch employees with regard to annual disclosure statements by reducing the minimum value of gifts that must be disclosed from \$300 to \$200, by requiring the disclosure of the annual total value of gifts, honoraria over \$2,000 and income received over \$10,000 for the sale, rental or lease of goods and services and by requiring that reportable income be identified as falling within specified ranges of income. The bill also provides that a former executive employee in a major policy-influencing position may not accept compensation for employment during the 12-month period immediately following termination of employment as an executive employee with, or under a contract to provide services during that period to, a person that is engaged in a business activity that is regulated by the state or quasi-state agency by which the former executive employee was employed.

**LD 110 An Act To Limit Political Contributions by Public Employee Labor Unions**

**ACCEPTED  
MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

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

This bill prohibits a public employee labor union from making contributions to a candidate in a state primary or general election for statewide office.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)**

This amendment, which is the minority report and was not adopted, replaces the bill and prohibits a public employee labor union from using dues to fund political communications. Dues may be used to fund a contribution to a political action committee.

**LD 121 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Operation of Tournament Games by Charitable Organizations**

**ONTP**

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

This bill amends the laws governing the operation of tournament games by charitable organizations. Current law requires that only members of the organization may conduct tournament games.

This bill allows the charitable organization to hire nonmembers to conduct the tournament games. Compensation paid to nonmembers for conducting a tournament game is limited to 20% of the gross revenue from the entry fees collected for the tournament game. The bill also increases the maximum entry fee for tournament game players.

**LD 151 An Act To Allow 2 Eligible Organizations To Jointly Hold a Game of Beano or Bingo**

**PUBLIC 305**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KESCHL SAVIELLO	OTP-AM ONTP	H-266

This bill proposes an exemption to current law to allow two organizations licensed to operate or conduct a game of beano or bingo to jointly operate that game on the same premises on the same date.