

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH 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 126th 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 126th 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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-266)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. It establishes a limited dual beano license that permits two organizations eligible to conduct beano to conduct a game at the same location on the same date. It provides that an organization that operates beano under a limited dual beano license may only do so up to two times per year. Organizations that apply for a limited dual beano license must identify a lead applicant who acknowledges responsibility for any violation of laws or rules during the game. The limited dual beano license does not authorize the sale of sealed tickets.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 305 establishes a limited dual beano license that permits two organizations eligible to conduct beano to conduct a game at the same location on the same date. It provides that an organization that operates beano under a limited dual beano license may only do so up to two times per year. Organizations that apply for a limited dual beano license must identify a lead applicant who acknowledges responsibility for any violation of laws or rules during the game. The limited dual beano license does not authorize the sale of sealed tickets.

LD 156 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine CARRIED OVER
Concerning Early Voting and Voting by Absentee Ballot

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to authorize a process to allow a qualified voter to vote at a polling place in or outside of the city, town or plantation where that voter's residence has been established during a period immediately preceding an election. It also allows for voting by absentee ballot by citizens for reasons deemed sufficient without requiring in the Constitution of Maine that the citizens be absent or physically incapacitated.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-127)

This amendment eliminates the language in the resolution that requires the Legislature to authorize early voting by voters within or outside their places of residence and instead directs the Legislature to authorize a process of early voting that allows voting to occur in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 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 169 An Act To Provide Revenue to Veterans' Organizations and the Maine PUBLIC 128
Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund from Table Game EMERGENCY
Revenue

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK LONGSTAFF	OTP-AM	S-57

Current law requires 2% of the net table game income generated at a casino with a commercial track to be held by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for distribution to charitable nonprofits eligible to