

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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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.

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conduct beano or games of chance. This bill changes that distribution, instead directing the income to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund, which is established in the bill to give grants to assist veterans' service organizations and to make an annual deposit to the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-57)

Current law requires 2% of the net table game income generated at a casino in Bangor to be held by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for distribution to charitable nonprofit organizations eligible to conduct beano games and games of chance. This amendment provides that distribution of the table game income will go to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund, which is established to assist veterans' service organizations with transportation of veterans to medical appointments and outreach to homeless veterans and to provide funding for veteran service officers at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus, for flags for veterans graves and for the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 128 repealed a provision of law governing the use of revenues from table games at one of the two licensed casinos in the State where 2% of the net table game income generated at a casino in Bangor was to be held by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for distribution to charitable nonprofit organizations eligible to conduct beano games and games of chance. Chapter 128 provides that distribution of the table game income will go to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund, which is established to assist veterans' service organizations with transportation of veterans to medical appointments and outreach to homeless veterans and to provide funding for veteran service officers at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus, for flags for veterans graves and for the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.

Public Law 2013, chapter 128 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 24, 2013.

LD 174 An Act To Prohibit the Placement of Political Signs within 25 Feet of a Cemetery or Burial Site ONTP

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

This bill prohibits the placement of political signs within 25 feet of a known burial site or of the boundaries of an established cemetery.

LD 184 An Act To Enhance Transparency in Government by Implementing a Waiting Period for Legislators before They May Register as Lobbyists PUBLIC 129

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT TUTTLE	OTP-AM	H-115

This bill prohibits a person who served as a Legislator from lobbying until one year after that person's term as a Legislator ends. It applies to a Legislator who serves in the 126th Legislature or in a later legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-115)

This amendment replaces the bill, which amended the statute governing lobbyist disclosure procedures to prohibit a former Legislator from engaging in lobbying for one year after the Legislator's term ends.

This amendment amends the provisions of law that govern legislative ethics to prohibit a former Legislator from engaging in activities that would require registration as a lobbyist or lobbyist associate until one year after that

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person's term as a Legislator ends.

This prohibition begins with the 127th Legislature.

The amendment specifies that uncompensated lobbying is not prohibited. The amendment specifies that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices is authorized to investigate complaints and impose a penalty of up to \$1,000 for intentional violation of the waiting period.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 129 amends the provisions of law that govern legislative ethics to prohibit a former Legislator from engaging in activities that would require registration as a lobbyist or lobbyist associate until one year after that person's term as a Legislator ends.

This prohibition begins with the 127th Legislature.

Chapter 129 specifies that uncompensated lobbying is not prohibited. It further specifies that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices is authorized to investigate complaints and impose a penalty of up to \$1,000 for intentional violation of the waiting period.

LD 185 An Act To Increase the Discount Rate on Alcoholic Beverages Sold by Agency Liquor Stores ONTP

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

This bill increases the minimum discount price and establishes a maximum discount price for spirits and fortified wine sold by agency liquor stores.

LD 213 An Act To Provide Funding for Transportation of Veterans to Medical Facilities ONTP

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

This bill provides an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 in fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to support the operating costs of the Disabled American Veterans transportation network, which provides round-trip transportation services to United States Veterans' Administration medical facilities.

LD 214 An Act To Require Registered Voter Lists To Be Provided to Candidates for Legislative Office ONTP

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

This bill requires the Secretary of State to provide lists of registered voters in a legislative district to candidates for the Legislature in that district prior to the primary and general elections.