

# 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**

July 2013

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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*

3. It renames the State Area Command as the Joint Force Headquarters and includes a reference to Air National Guard units.
4. It repeals and replaces the section of law that determines the disposition of revenue generated by the Maine Military Authority to additionally authorize the transfer of unreserved retained earnings, in the amount of \$10,000 annually, to each of three accounts that may be established within the Military Bureau to be used for official representation funds, for unfunded priorities identified by the Adjutant General and for the Maine National Guard Foundation Fund.
5. Under current law, a general officer commander may impose a certain level of disciplinary punishment. Chapter 251 specifies that this level of disciplinary punishment may be imposed by a colonel in the chain of command of the individual being punished.
6. It provides that any person subject to the Maine Code of Military Justice who commits an offense under the Maine Criminal Code's chapter governing sexual assaults is also guilty of violating the Maine Code of Military Justice.

**LD 320      An Act To Ensure the Integrity of the Election Process**

**ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to review ways to remedy errors made in the course of the conduct of elections including, but not limited to, the circumstances under which a new election is a more appropriate remedy than a recount.

**LD 328      An Act Relating to Radon Testing and Disclosure to Tenants**

**PUBLIC 324**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHITTEMORE CRAY	OTP-AM ONTP	S-226

This bill repeals the current provisions in law related to mandatory radon testing and disclosure of the presence of radon to tenants and prospective tenants in residential buildings and enacts provisions related to disclosure of a radon hazard to tenants and prospective tenants based on Illinois law. The bill provides that radon testing is not required, but requires the disclosure of a radon hazard to tenants and prospective tenants when a landlord is made aware of test results indicating the presence of a radon hazard and mitigation has not been performed to reduce the level of radon. The bill applies to dwelling units located below the third story above ground level in a residential building.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-226)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment changes the law regarding radon testing of residential units as follows.

1. Testing remains required by March 1, 2014 and every 10 years thereafter but only upon request by a tenant and only if a mitigation system is not in place.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

2. Landlords must disclose testing results prior to renting rather than to all potential tenants. Landlords must also disclose results of a test to existing tenants within 30 days of receiving results.
3. Landlords are authorized to perform radon testing except in certain complex buildings as defined in rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services.
4. Landlords are required to test for radon and disclose the results. The requirement in statute to mitigate is eliminated.
5. The disclosure must include the results of the test, the date of the test, that the tenant has the right to test and a reference to where the tenant can get more information about radon. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to modify the standard disclosure statement form to reflect the changes.
6. If a tenant and the landlord get different results for tests, the landlord may hire a professional and disclose the result of the testing performed by the professional. The landlord may also choose to accept the tenant's results.
7. Tenants explicitly have the right to test for radon.
8. Results of testing by a landlord must be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services within 30 days.
9. By November 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services must adopt rules for testing that incorporate existing protocols by reference.
10. The failure of a landlord to disclose test results or the falsification of records by a landlord is considered a breach of the warranty of habitability.
11. If radon test results exceed 4.0 picocuries per liter, a landlord or tenant may terminate the lease with 30 days' notice in accordance with current law. A landlord may not retain a security deposit for a termination based on radon test results.
12. If a landlord brings an action for forcible entry and detainer, a tenant's assertion of rights under the law regarding residential radon testing creates a rebuttable presumption of retaliation against the tenant.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 324 changes the current law regarding radon testing of residential units as follows.

1. Testing remains required by March 1, 2014 and every 10 years thereafter but only upon request by a tenant and only if a mitigation system is not in place.
2. Landlords must disclose testing results prior to renting rather than to all potential tenants. Landlords must also disclose results of a test to existing tenants within 30 days of receiving results.
3. Landlords are authorized to perform radon testing except in certain complex buildings as defined in rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services.
4. Landlords are required to test for radon and disclose the results. The requirement in statute to mitigate is eliminated.
5. The disclosure must include the results of the test, the date of the test, that the tenant has the right to test and a reference to where the tenant can get more information about radon. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to modify the standard disclosure statement form to reflect the changes.

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

- 6. If a tenant and the landlord get different results for tests, the landlord may hire a professional and disclose the result of the testing performed by the professional. The landlord may also choose to accept the tenant's results.
- 7. Tenants explicitly have the right to test for radon.
- 8. Results of testing by a landlord must be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services within 30 days.

**LD 329 An Act To Reduce the Licensing Fee for Certain Tournament Games**

**PUBLIC 306**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK RUSSELL	OTP-AM ONTP	S-155

This bill reduces the license fees for tournament games that do not exceed 100 players.

This bill also eliminates the ability of an organization licensed to hold a tournament game to charge a player an addition to the entry fee to defray the cost of the license.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-155)**

This amendment increases the fees for tournament game licenses that are proposed by the bill. The license fees proposed in the amendment are a reduction from what is required in current law. The bill removes the provision of current law that provides that a tournament game licensee may charge an amount higher than the maximum entry fee to defray the cost of licensure. The amendment retains this provision of law.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 306 reduces the fee paid by organizations licensed to conduct tournament games. A per tournament license fee is reduced from \$150 to \$75 under this law. A monthly licensee fee is reduced from \$250 to \$200. The fee for an annual license under chapter 306 is reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,500. Finally, chapter 306 repeals a provision in the tournament games law that previously allowed a licensee to apply an extra charge to a tournament game entry fee to defray the cost of the license.

**LD 333 An Act To Amend the Provision of Law That Requires the Trade Name or Brand of Malt Liquor To Be Displayed in Full Sight of a Customer on a Faucet, Spigot or Dispensing Apparatus**

**PUBLIC 165**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNECK	OTP-AM	H-120

This bill repeals the requirement that the trade name or brand of malt liquor served from a faucet, spigot or dispensing apparatus be displayed in full sight of a customer on the faucet, spigot or dispensing apparatus.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-120)**

This amendment replaces the bill. Current law requires that an on-premises liquor licensee may not serve malt liquor from a tap unless the trade name or brand is clearly labeled on the tap handle. The amendment provides an alternative to current law by providing that licensees who serve malt liquor from a tap may inform consumers about which product is being dispensed by displaying a list of all available malt liquors.