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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126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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.

2. It clarifies that the restrictions during the 15-day period after a change of party enrollment do not include the signing of a primary nomination petition, as long as the petition is certified after the 15-day period elapses.

3. It provides explicit authority for the Secretary of State to adopt routine technical rules for conducting voter list maintenance as required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

4. It specifies that the federal and state court systems are entitled to voter registration data from the central voter registration system for the purpose of jury selection or bona fide court purposes.

5. It replaces the current process for formation of a new party by petition with a process of formation by enrolling a certain number of voters in the proposed party.

6. It moves the deadlines for submission of nonparty petitions for a slate of presidential electors to two weeks earlier.

7. It removes the requirement that the municipal clerk report to the Secretary of State when a registered voter changes party enrollment status in order to serve as an election clerk as well as the requirement that the Secretary of State report these changes in party enrollment status to the Legislature by January 15th after a general election.

8. It provides the Secretary of State the authority to act administratively to facilitate voting by Maine registered voters who are civilians living in the United States in an area in which the governor of that state has declared a state of emergency due to a natural disaster or other occurrence, or for Maine registered voters who are responding to and offering assistance to the area in which the state of emergency has been declared.

9. It changes the method of sealing the unopened envelopes containing rejected absentee ballots so that they are sealed with the used absentee envelopes, rather than with the voted ballots.

10. It allows the clerk to submit the notice of election, indicating that the municipality will process absentee ballots on the day prior to election day, to the Secretary of State as a scanned attachment to an e-mail, in addition to other means.

11. It decreases the amount of time an absentee ballot application from a uniformed service voter or overseas voter remains valid, from 2 years to 18 months.

12. It also makes other clarifications and technical corrections to the election laws.

LD 508 **An Act To Remove the Disqualification from Obtaining a Liquor License for a Law Enforcement Officer Who Does Not Directly Benefit Financially** **PUBLIC 168**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SAVIELLO	OTP-AM ONTP	S-60

This bill allows full-time law enforcement officers that have a direct or indirect benefit in a place of business to hold a liquor license if they meet all the other requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-60)

This amendment replaces the bill. Current law provides that an applicant is disqualified from obtaining a retail liquor license if a full-time law enforcement officer benefits financially directly or indirectly. The amendment provides that the disqualification only applies if the full-time law enforcement officer directly benefits financially.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 168 amends the law which states that an applicant is disqualified from obtaining a retail liquor license if a full-time law enforcement officer benefits financially directly or indirectly. Chapter 168 provides that the disqualification only applies if the full-time law enforcement officer directly benefits financially.

LD 510 **An Act To Ensure Equity in Funding to State Postsecondary Institutions of Higher Learning** **PUBLIC 118**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
THOMAS DAVIS	OTP-AM	S-43

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to forward revenue from slot machines operated by a casino operator and by a slot machine operator to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy to help fund its scholarships program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-43)

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 118 directs the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to forward revenue received from the operation of slot machines at casinos to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy to help fund its scholarships program. The overall distribution of slot machine revenue is not increased by chapter 118, rather, the percentage previously dedicated solely to the University of Maine System for scholarships is divided between the Universtiy of Maine and Maine Maritime Academy based on student enrollment.

LD 511 **An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for President** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WOODBURY BROOKS		

This bill proposes to adopt the interstate compact that is the agreement among the states to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote. Under the compact and the bill, the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia will win the presidency. Under this bill, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

This bill would take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes, that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President, which is 270 of 538.

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).