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

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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

LD 518   **An Act To Establish Ranked-choice Voting in the State**   **ACCEPTED**
                                                                                                   MAJORITY
                                                                                                   (ONTP) REPORT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WOODBURY	ONTP	
RUSSELL	OTP-AM	

This bill creates the ranked-choice voting method of determining winners in elections for United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative. The method simulates the ballot counts that would occur if all voters participated in a series of run-off elections and allows a voter to rank candidates according to that voter's preferences. Each voter has only one vote and the ballot count is the same as would occur if voters participated in a series of run-off elections, with the candidate with the fewest votes eliminated after each round of counting.

There is an initial round of counting. If a candidate receives a majority of votes after the first round, that candidate is declared the winner. If more than two candidates have received votes after the initial round, the Secretary of State conducts a 2nd round. In this second round, the Secretary of State eliminates the candidate with the fewest votes. A ballot that ranks this eliminated candidate as the highest-ranked candidate is counted as a vote for the highest-ranked advancing candidate on that ballot. An advancing candidate is a candidate who has not been eliminated. This process of counting votes and eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes continues until two candidates remain. The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-244)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment removes the offices of United States Senator and United States Representative from the offices subject to the ranked-choice voting method prescribed by the bill.

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

LD 519   **An Act To Establish Advance Deposit Wagering for Harness Racing**   **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TUTTLE		

This bill authorizes existing off-track betting facilities in the State to conduct advance deposit wagering for pari-mutuel horse racing either individually or in partnership with other off-track betting facilities. The bill authorizes the State Harness Racing Commission to administer the conduct of advance deposit wagering and sets out the distribution of the net commission to various uses and funds. The bill also requires any person or state department or agency who is authorized to conduct gambling activity in the State through the Internet to distribute 22% of the total commission of this Internet gambling activity to various state harness racing funds and purposes.

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).

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