

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

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

- 22. Setting out the duties and liabilities of the treasurer and principal officer of a political action committee;
- 23. Requiring a statement of the name and address of the person who made or financed the communication on any paid communication costing more than \$500 that expressly advocates for or against a ballot question;
- 24. Requiring political action committees that spend more than \$25,000 to influence an election to keep account statements for 4 years;
- 25. Increasing potential fines for not providing a complete and accurate political action committee registration statement from \$250 to \$2,500;
- 26. Authorizing the commission to assess a fine of \$2,500 for failing to keep required records as long as the commission considers mitigating circumstances;
- 27. Clarifying that a treasurer or deputy treasurer of a Maine Clean Election Act candidate must file the financial report for the candidate; and
- 28. Specifying that a candidate's treasurer or deputy treasurer is required to file the complete campaign finance reports while adding provisions allowing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to hold the candidate and treasurer, and deputy treasurer, if applicable, responsible for penalties related to filing of campaign finance reports.

LD 1306 An Act To Enhance Voter Registration for Persons with Disabilities

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK LONGSTAFF	OTP-AM	S-182

This bill adds state agencies, including agencies that provide services to persons with disabilities, to the list of agencies where voter registration services must be made available. It specifies which services must be made available at these agencies and prohibits certain actions by persons who provide these services that would improperly influence a person's registration decisions.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-182)

This amendment clarifies references to state agencies that are required under the National Voter Registration Act to accept voter registrations and clarifies that these agencies are not limited to assisting people with disabilities.

LD 1309 An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act and Restrict Participation to Legislative Candidates

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Clean Election Act.

- 1. It doubles the current seed money cap for participating Senate and House candidates and removes the seed money requirement for gubernatorial candidates.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

- 2. It replaces the Maine Clean Election Act matching funds system with a system of optional supplemental funding for participating Maine Clean Election Act candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions.
- 3. It also establishes new baseline initial distribution amounts.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-156)

This amendment clarifies that the distributions from the Maine Clean Election Fund established by this bill are for the 2014 election cycle and that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices will use those distributions to make determinations on future distributions in accordance with the guidelines established in existing law that direct the commission to consider spending in the 2 previous elections and the Consumer Price Index.

This amendment also reduces the number of additional qualifying contributions that will allow for distributions to candidates for Senate from \$5,000 for every 45 additional qualifying contributions to \$5,000 for every 30 additional qualifying contributions.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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 1317 An Act Related to Rent Escrow

LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

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

This bill allows a tenant to place rent owed into an escrow account if the tenant's rental unit has a condition that endangers or materially impairs the health or safety of the tenant and the landlord fails to remedy the condition. If the tenant and landlord cannot agree to a remedy of an unhealthful or unsafe condition of a rental unit after the tenant has placed the rent into an escrow account, either side may bring an action in District Court to determine whether an unhealthful or unsafe condition of the rental unit exists. If a court rules for the tenant, the court may order funds to be disbursed from the escrow account to remedy the unhealthful or unsafe condition with those funds and administrative fees subtracted from the amount of rent the tenant owes the landlord.

This bill also removes the ability of a tenant to repair a dangerous condition that the landlord has failed to repair after notice and deduct the cost of the repair from the tenant's rent.

LD 1318 An Act To Clarify the Law Regarding Advertising Signs outside Premises Licensed To Sell Alcohol

PUBLIC 207

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE LUCHINI	OTP-AM	S-129

This bill clarifies a provision limiting the number of advertising signs a person licensed to sell liquor may have outside of the licensed premises by allowing one sign in addition to the state agency liquor store sign.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-129)