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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COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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.

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**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TUTTLE	OTP-AM	S-129
LUCHINI		

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)