

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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STAFF:

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
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

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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

- 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)

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This amendment clarifies the bill with regard to how the limit on advertising signs applies to agency liquor stores.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 207 increases from one to two the number of advertising signs that are permitted outside a premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages. For agency liquor stores, one of the two signs permitted is the agency liquor store sign.

LD 1319 An Act To Authorize a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe in the State To Benefit from the Operation of an Existing Casino **CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill provides the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians the same distribution of net slot machine income from casino slot machines as is provided to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe under current law.

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).

LD 1355 An Act To Increase the Monetary Limit for Card Games **PUBLIC 218**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ	OTP-AM	S-130

This bill increases the fee that an organization can charge for games of cards from \$5 to \$10 and it limits the number of players to 60 players at any one time.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-130)

This amendment makes a technical correction to the bill, ensuring that the entry fee change proposed by the bill is changed in both sections of the law governing entry fees that apply to games of cards conducted by charitable nonprofit organizations.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 218 increases the amount of money a non-profit, charitable organization licensed to conduct a game of cards may charge as an entry fee for the game from \$5 to \$10. Under existing law, a game of cards operated by a licensed charitable organization may be operated by either allowing players to wager up to \$1 per hand or to charge players an entry fee.

LD 1358 An Act To Amend the Election Laws To Require a Run-off Election for Governor **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE LONGSTAFF	ONTP	

This bill requires that a successful candidate for Governor receive more than 50% of the votes cast for the office of Governor. Currently, the candidate who receives the largest number of votes is declared the winner, regardless of