

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
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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

that number's percentage of the total number of votes cast for the office.

This bill requires a run-off election between the 2 candidates who received the largest number of votes when no candidate received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast in an election. The person who receives the larger number of votes in the run-off election is declared the winner.

LD 1415 Resolve, To Amend the Rules Governing Events at Clubs with a License RESOLVE 71 To Sell Alcohol for On-premises Consumption with Catering Privileges

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS SOCTOMAH	OTP-AM ONTP	S-268

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to amend its rules to allow a member of an organization renting a club licensed for on-premises consumption of alcohol with catering privileges for a prearranged function to purchase tickets at the door of the club for the prearranged function from 24 hours prior to the function until the termination of the function.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-268)

This amendment, which is the majority report, directs the Department of Public Safety to amend its rules to allow a group holding an event at a club licensed for on-premises consumption of alcohol with catering privileges to sell tickets at the door to members of that group at the time of the event. It also adds a reporting requirement regarding events held in accordance with the rule.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 71 directs the Department of Public Safety to amend its rules to allow a group holding an event at a club licensed for on-premises consumption of alcohol with catering privileges to sell tickets at the door to members of that group at the time of the event. It also adds a reporting requirement regarding events held in accordance with the rule.

LD 1422 An Act To Establish a Nonpartisan Primary and a Presidential Primary ONTP Election System and Instant Run-off Voting for State and Federal Candidates

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RYKERSON WOODBURY	ONTP	

This bill amends the election laws to create a nonpartisan primary process.

The bill amends the presidential nomination process in the State. The bill requires the State to hold a presidential primary election if the state committee of a political party certifies that there is a contest among candidates for nomination as the presidential candidate of the party and that the committee has voted to conduct a presidential primary election. Under the bill, delegates to the national convention must be allocated in proportion with the candidate votes and the uncommitted votes cast in the presidential primary election of the party unless party rules provide otherwise.

The bill creates an instant run-off voting method of determining winners in elections for President of the United States, United States Senator, Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative beginning in 2014. 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

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

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 more than 2 candidates have received votes after the initial round, the Secretary of State conducts an instant run-off round. In this instant run-off 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 2 candidates remain. The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

The bill also removes the requirement that a voter must file an application to change party enrollment prior to January 1st to be eligible to file a petition as a candidate in that election year.

LD 1447 An Act To Grow the Maine Economy by Promoting Maine's Small Breweries and Wineries

PUBLIC 351

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND LIBBY N	OTP-AM	S-224

This bill sets the number of special taste-testing festival licenses statewide at five per year, and requires four of the five licenses to be issued to a trade association that represents breweries or wineries. The bill allows small breweries and wineries from other states to participate in special taste-testing festivals.

This bill increases the fee for a special taste-testing festival license from \$10 to \$50 per day of the festival and clarifies that the event, rather than a participant, is licensed.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-224)

This amendment strikes the bill and instead expands the number of special taste-testing festival licenses that may be issued to five annually. The amendment increases the license fee for the special taste-testing events to \$50. The amendment also corrects a cross-reference in existing law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 351 expands the number of special taste-testing festival licenses that may be issued from one to five annually. It also increases the license fee for the special taste-testing events to \$50.

LD 1494 An Act To Alter the Distribution of Maine Clean Election Act Funds

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill decreases the number of qualifying contributions required for legislative and gubernatorial candidates to collect to become certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates. It provides that candidates may continue to collect qualifying contributions in order to receive supplemental distributions from the Maine Clean Election Fund. The bill establishes a maximum amount of total distributions from the fund for all candidates. Finally, the bill establishes the amount of initial distributions for the 2014 election cycle.

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).