

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 1670**     **Resolve, To Require the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services To Report on the Administration of the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund**     **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK BRIGGS	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund.

**LD 1675**     **An Act To Streamline Gaming Laws**     **ONTP**

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

This bill requires the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to solicit bids for the operation of a new casino located in southern Maine and directs the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue a casino operator license to the entity that is awarded the bid. The casino operator must enter into an agreement with the municipality where the slot machines are located that provides for revenue sharing or other compensation of at least three percent of the net slot machine income. The fee for this license is \$5,000,000. The limit on the number of slot machines that may be registered in the State is raised from 3,000 to 5,000.

The casino operator must distribute 1% of gross slot machine income to the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board. The casino operator must distribute 39% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income as follows:

- 2 ½% for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board and for the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund;
- 20% to supplement harness racing purses;
- 5% to the Sire Stakes Fund;
- 8 ½% to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund;
- 5% to the municipality in which the slot machines and table games are located;
- 7 ½% to the county in which the slot machines and table games are located;
- 2 ½% to the municipalities that abut the municipality in which the slot machines and table games are located;
- 2 ½% to the Fund to Stabilize Off-track Betting Facilities;
- 1 ½% to a nonprofit fraternal organization fund established by rule;

## *Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

- 1 ½% to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund;
- 2 ½% to the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State;
- 20 ½% to the Department of Education for the purpose of funding kindergarten to grade 12 education; and
- 20 ½% to the Local Government Fund under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 223 for the purpose of revenue sharing with the municipalities of the State.

**LD 1681      *An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Gambling and Criminal History Record Checks*      ONTP**

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

This bill specifies the portions of net slot machine and table game income collected by a casino operator or slot machine operator for administrative expenses of the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board that must be deposited in the General Fund and the Gambling Control Board administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account.

The bill moves a dedicated fund in the Department of Education regarding criminal history record checks to the Department of Public Safety.

It also provides that, with respect to fingerprint-supported criminal history record checks, unless otherwise specified in law, the full fee charged must be deposited in a dedicated revenue account for the purpose of paying the costs of the Department of Public Safety.

**LD 1690      *An Act Concerning Confidential Records Received by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices*      PUBLIC 470**

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

This bill clarifies that certain investigative records of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices designated confidential under current law maintain their confidentiality even if they are in the possession of a financial institution or vendor of a candidate, political action committee or other association being investigated by the commission. Those categories of documents are also confidential if received in the context of an audit or other enforcement matter such as a staff review of the compliance of campaign finance reports. The commission may present those documents or discuss them at a public meeting of the commission when they are materially relevant to a final commission determination or other decision by the commission concerning an audit, investigation or other enforcement matter.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 470 clarifies that certain investigative records of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices designated confidential under current law maintain their confidentiality even if they are in the possession of a financial institution or vendor of a candidate, political action committee or other association being investigated by the commission. Those categories of documents are also confidential if received in the context of an audit or other enforcement matter such as a staff review of the compliance of campaign finance reports. The commission may present those documents or discuss them at a public meeting of the commission when