

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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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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

*Committee member for the duration of the absence of Rep. David D. Johnson.

STATE OF MAINE
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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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th 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 1834 An Act To Require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices To Make Public Declarations following a Determination of a Campaign Statement's Falsity **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to investigate, upon complaint made by a candidate for Governor, State House of Representatives or State Senate, certain campaign statements and to make public declarations regarding statements determined to be false.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-513)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority report of the committee. The amendment removes from the list of statements that are subject to an investigation by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices false statements about a candidate's or public official's confinement for a mental disorder or a false statement about military discipline for criminal misconduct or about dishonorable discharge. It also requires the commission to categorize statements subject to an investigation in categories ranging from false to true.

LD 1837 An Act To Provide Former Employees of the Maine Military Authority the Ability To Sue for Severance Pay **Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T THERIAULT	OTP-AM ONTP	S-524

This bill prohibits the State and the Maine Military Authority, an executive branch entity, from raising the defense of sovereign immunity in a civil action brought to collect severance pay.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-524)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and clarifies that the waiver of immunity granted in the bill applies to a specific civil action for unpaid severance pay.

LD 1856 Resolve, To Conduct a Market Analysis Regarding the Feasibility of Expanded Gaming in Maine **RESOLVE 111 EMERGENCY**

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

This resolve is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Public Law 2011, chapter 699. The resolve directs the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into a contract with an experienced gaming consulting firm to conduct an analysis of the potential market for expanded casino-style gaming in the State. The resolve requires the analysis and a report to be completed by September 1, 2014. The resolve authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to hold up to four meetings to review the analysis and authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans and legal affairs to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The resolve transfers \$150,000 from the Gambling Control Board administrative expenses Other Special Revenue

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Funds account to the General Fund and transfers \$150,000 to the Legislative Council from the General Fund to fund the contract.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-821)

This amendment, which was not adopted, is the minority report of the committee and replaces the resolve reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to authority under Public Law 2011, chapter 699. The amendment requires the committee to meet no fewer than 12 times in June, July and August of 2014 to develop a comprehensive gaming policy for the State that includes the development of regions or zones where casinos may be licensed, the establishment of a competitive bidding process and the establishment of a single structure for the distribution of slot machine and table game revenue for all facilities licensed to operate slot machines or table games.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 111 directs the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into a contract with an experienced gaming consulting firm to conduct an analysis of the potential market for expanded casino-style gaming in the State. The resolve requires the analysis and a report to be completed by September 1, 2014. Chapter 111 authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to hold up to four meetings to review the analysis and authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans and legal affairs to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Chapter 111 transfers \$150,000 from the Gambling Control Board administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account to the General Fund and transfers \$150,000 to the Legislative Council from the General Fund to fund the contract.

Resolves 2013, chapter 111 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2014.