

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2015

**STAFF:**

DANIELLE FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. SCOTT W. CYRWAY, CHAIR  
SEN. RONALD F. COLLINS  
SEN. JOHN L. PATRICK

REP. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR  
REP. THOMAS R. W. LONGSTAFF  
REP. ROBERT J. SAUCIER  
REP. JOHN C. SCHNECK  
REP. KIMBERLY J. MONAGHAN  
REP. JARED F. GOLDEN  
REP. JONATHAN L. KINNEY  
REP. BETH P. TURNER  
REP. KATHLEEN R. J. DILLINGHAM  
REP. SHELDON MARK HANINGTON  
REP. HENRY JOHN BEAR

# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ....	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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 15**      **An Act To Increase Transparency in Campaign Funding in Legislative Elections**      **ONTP**

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

This bill requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide campaign finance information for legislative elections on a publicly accessible website, including all contributions and independent expenditures used to support or oppose a candidate, sorted by candidate and district.

**LD 33**      **An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act, Improve Disclosure and Make Other Changes to the Campaign Finance Laws**      **INDEF PP**

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

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing campaign finance reporting and disclosure and the Maine Clean Election Act.

1. It authorizes the establishment of gubernatorial transition committees for the purpose of raising money to finance a Governor-elect's inauguration and transition into office and establishes requirements regarding disclosure and acceptance of donations from persons involved in lobbying.
2. It amends the Maine Clean Election Act by adding a system of optional supplemental funding for participating Maine Clean Election Act candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions.
3. It establishes new baseline initial distribution amounts for Maine Clean Election Act candidates.
4. It authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to impose enhanced penalties for campaign finance violations occurring shortly before election day.
5. It increases the baseline penalties for failure to file required reports.
6. It increases the maximum penalties for certain campaign finance violations.
7. It requires communications that are independent expenditures to include a conspicuous statement listing the top three funders of the entity making the independent expenditure.
8. It increases the amount of the annual transfer to the Maine Clean Election Fund from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.
9. It requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to report annually on the Maine Clean Election Fund's projected needs, including an operating margin of 20%.
10. It repeals the seed money requirement for gubernatorial candidates.
11. It adjusts the number of qualifying contributions required for initial certification of gubernatorial candidates from 3,250 to 3,200 to correspond to the increments established for supplemental funds distributions.
12. It doubles the seed money cap for legislative candidates.

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

13. It provides rule-making authority for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices regarding several of the statutory changes.

14. It directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters to report out legislation to eliminate corporate tax expenditures totaling \$6,000,000 per biennium, prioritizing low-performing tax expenditures.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

**LD 53      An Act To Require Shareholder Consent for Corporate Political Contributions**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill requires a majority vote of a corporation's shareholders before the corporation makes a political contribution or expenditure and requires that once the contribution or expenditure has been made, the corporation posts notice of the contribution or expenditure on its website. The bill disallows a corporation that has over half of its shares owned by one or more institutional investors who cannot hold public office, such as a pension fund or a for-profit or nonprofit corporation, from making any political contributions or expenditures. The bill also allows a shareholder who disagrees with a corporation's political contribution or expenditure to receive from the corporation upon request a rebate of a percentage of the political contribution or expenditure equal to the percentage of ownership the shareholder has in the corporation.

**LD 74      Resolve, To Require the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services To Make Recommendations To Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members**

**RESOLVE 19**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANINGTON	OTP-AM	H-168

This resolve establishes the Task Force to Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members in the State. The task force is directed to study and find out if there is equity in the establishment, provision and application of the benefits and if the benefits are known to those eligible to receive them. The benefits include, but are not limited to, property tax exemptions, free automobile registration, automobile sales tax exemption, complimentary and reduced-rate licenses to hunt, trap and fish and day use passes to state parks and historic sites. The task force is also directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, and the joint standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature based on that report.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)**

This amendment replaces the resolve. It requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs regarding streamlining the criteria for the delivery and administration of state-established services and benefits to veterans and military service members in the State. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature regarding the recommendations.