

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH 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

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH 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 127th 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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & 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 127th 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

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 19 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.

LD 102 An Act To Strengthen the Craft Beer Industry

PUBLIC 15

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND SCHNECK	OTP-AM	S-8

Current law allows a person licensed to manufacture malt liquor to host one tenant brewer at that person's manufacturing facility. This bill amends that law to allow for up to nine tenant brewers per host at a manufacturing facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-8)

This amendment clarifies that the limit on the number of tenant brewers is nine tenant brewers per host brewer facility at any one time.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 15 allows a person licensed to manufacture malt liquor to host up to nine tenant brewers at that person's manufacturing facility.

LD 104 An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Veterans' Organizations

Leave to Withdraw
Pursuant to Joint
Rule

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

This bill permits the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, beginning January 1, 2016, to issue a license to a charitable nonprofit organization that is a veterans' organization that is tax-exempt under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to operate up to three slot machines on premises that have been owned, rented or leased by the organization for at least two consecutive years, that serve as its primary administrative operations headquarters and that are located in a municipality that has, by referendum of the voters, approved the operation of slot machines in that municipality. The charitable nonprofit veterans' organization must be able to demonstrate that it has a cash reserve of \$1,000 for each machine the organization intends to operate.

A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that wishes to apply prior to January 1, 2016 may file a declaration of intent to apply with the Gambling Control Board. An application must include a refundable \$2,500 deposit. The initial application fee for a slot machine operator license is \$500, and the annual renewal fee is \$175.

A slot machine operated by a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is subject to the same central site monitoring that applies to casinos and slot machine facilities at harness racing tracks. The total number of slot machines allowed to be operated by charitable nonprofit veterans' organizations statewide between January 1, 2016