

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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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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

and December 31, 2016 is 80; beginning January 1, 2017 the number increases to 150.

The bill provides that 10% of the net slot machine income from a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is required to be deposited directly with the Gambling Control Board for administrative expenses; 8% goes directly to the General Fund; 10% goes to the host municipality; and 2% is dedicated to gambling addiction prevention and treatment. A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that is licensed to operate slot machines is required to establish a separate account, from which the board may withdraw funds to distribute the net revenue percentages. The remaining revenue generated from the slot machines must be used to support the charitable purposes of the veterans' organization.

LD 122 An Act To Standardize Pints of Beer Sold in Maine Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK GOODE	OTP-AM ONTP	S-7

This bill requires that if an on-premises retail liquor licensee sells or offers for sale a pint of malt liquor, the container it comes in must have a capacity of at least 16 fluid ounces.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-7)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, makes a technical change to the bill by placing it in the section of statute that applies to on-premises licensees specifically. It also clarifies that the requirement to have a container that holds 16 fluid ounces applies when the licensee represents in written form to patrons that the licensee sells malt liquor by the pint.

LD 145 An Act To Amend the Verification and Certification Process for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda ONTP

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

This bill removes the duty of verifying and certifying petitions in direct initiatives of legislation and people's veto referenda from municipal clerks and registrars and instead requires the Secretary of State to verify and certify all petitions. The Secretary of State is also required to send a random sampling of 10% of the petitions back to the municipalities to review for accuracy for audit purposes. The bill also creates three positions in the Secretary of State's office to assist in the verification and certification process for petitions in direct initiatives and people's veto referenda.

LD 174 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act Regarding Candidate Participation in Political Action Committees PUBLIC 116

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY VALENTINO	OTP-AM	H-147

This bill prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from establishing or participating in the activities of a political action committee for which the candidate is a principal officer, fund-raiser or decision maker. This prohibition also applies to the 12 months preceding certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.