

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-147)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, as part of the terms of participation in the act, from establishing a political action committee for which the candidate is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for fund-raising or decision making. This prohibition applies beginning with the election cycle beginning in 2016. For the purpose of this prohibition, an election cycle begins on April 1st immediately preceding the general election and ends on January 1st immediately preceding the next general election.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 116 prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, as part of the terms of participation in the act, from establishing a political action committee for which the candidate is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for fund-raising or decision making. This prohibition applies beginning with the election cycle beginning in 2016. For the purpose of this prohibition, an election cycle begins on April 1st immediately preceding the general election and ends on January 1st immediately preceding the next general election.

LD 175 **An Act To Limit Maine Clean Election Act Funding to First-time Candidates** ONTP

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

This bill limits participating candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act to first-time candidates for Governor, State Senator or State Representative.

LD 176 **An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda** PUBLIC 99 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHORT CUSHING	OTP-AM	H-98

This bill prohibits persons who are not residents of the State from collecting signatures on a petition for the direct initiative of legislation or a people's veto referendum and from handling such a petition in any manner. The bill permits persons who are not residents to provide others with information about a petition. The bill requires a person employed by a petition organization to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and to disclose to the commission information regarding the person's place of residence, employment history, compensation, number of signatures gathered in a month and petitions circulated and to wear an identification badge when collecting signatures. The bill requires a petition organization to post a \$2,000 bond on a circulator receiving over \$2,500 in compensation. The bill makes a violation of any of these provisions a Class E crime.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-98)

This amendment replaces the bill, which imposes limitations and residency restrictions on circulators of petitions. The amendment clarifies the law regarding the solicitation of signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto referendum. It also requires a petition organization that receives compensation for working on a signature-gathering effort to submit to the Secretary of State as part of the organization's registration process a list containing the names of those hired by the organization, which must be updated when the petitions are ultimately filed with the Secretary of State.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 99 clarifies the law regarding the solicitation of signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto referendum. It also requires a petition organization that receives compensation for working on a signature-gathering effort to submit to the Secretary of State as part of the organization's registration process a list containing the names of those hired by the organization, which must be updated when the petitions are ultimately filed with the Secretary of State.

Public Law 2015, chapter 99 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 24, 2015.

LD 184 An Act To Reimburse Philip Wolley for Litigation Expenses Incurred in Connection with His Termination and Reinstatement as a State Employee ONTP

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

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$28,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 to reimburse Philip Wolley for litigation expenses incurred in connection with his termination and subsequent reinstatement as a state employee.

LD 189 An Act To Prohibit Undisclosed Political Spending ONTP

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

This bill requires nonprofit entities to disclose their donors from the previous two calendar years when making a contribution to a registered Maine party committee, registered Maine political action committee or out-of-state political action committee making expenditures to influence an election in Maine.

LD 197 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting Died Between Houses

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

This bill requires that a voter provide proof of identity with photographic identification for the purpose of voting. The bill specifies the types of photographic identification that may be used to verify the identity of a voter. It provides that a person who does not present photographic identification may cast a provisional ballot and establishes the process for provisional voting. Under this process, if the person can verify the person's identity to the warden or an election clerk within three business days of the election by presenting acceptable photographic identification, the ballot will be cast as a regular ballot. Through the general election of 2016, a person who does not present acceptable photographic identification but is known to a municipal clerk, registrar or election official at the voting place may cast a regular ballot upon submission of an affidavit by the municipal clerk, registrar or election official attesting to the person's identity. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of State to provide, at no fee, nondriver identification cards to eligible persons who do not have another form of acceptable photographic