

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**

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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

LD 298 An Act To Require Political Action Committees To Report the Receipt of Paid Services Received from State Agencies Veto Sustained

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

Under current law, when nonprofit corporations or commercial entities compensate their employees to provide services to a political action committee, the committee is required to report the services as a contribution. The bill requires that political action committees also report the receipt of services paid for by state agencies.

LD 334 An Act To Improve the Maine Clean Election Act ONTP

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

This bill prohibits a person certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate seeking election to the State Senate or State House of Representatives from establishing a political action committee or serving as a fund-raiser or principal decision maker for a political action committee unless the political action committee is established to provide the person with professional development, networking and educational opportunities related to work that person may perform as a legislator. The bill also sets limits on how much money may be raised for such a political action committee.

LD 364 An Act To Allow a Sales Representative To Serve Alcoholic Beverages at a Tasting Event PUBLIC 129 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MALABY LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-175 H-185 MALABY

This bill repeals the prohibition on a sales representative's pouring or distributing distilled spirits or wine at a tasting event.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-175)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment provides that a licensed sales representative may pour samples of spirits, wine or malt liquor at a taste-testing event that has been authorized by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations at an on-premise retail licensee's establishment, an agency liquor store or an off-premise retail licensee's establishment. Under the amendment, when a retailer requests authority to conduct a taste-testing event, the request must indicate whether a licensed sales representative will be participating by pouring samples and verification that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course approved by the commissioner.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the amendment.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Public Law 2015, chapter 129 provides that a licensed sales representative may pour samples of spirits, wine or malt liquor at a taste-testing event that has been authorized by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations at an on-premise retail licensee's establishment, an agency liquor store or an off-premise retail licensee's establishment. Under this law, when a retailer requests authority to conduct a taste-testing event, the request must indicate whether a licensed sales representative will be participating by pouring samples and verification that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course approved by the commissioner.

Public Law 2015, chapter 129 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2015.

LD 366 An Act Regarding the Sale and Taxation of Hard Cider ONTP

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

This bill includes within the definition of "hard cider" liquor produced by fermentation of pears and cranberries or combinations of apples, pears and cranberries.

**LD 370 An Act To Amend the Lobbyist Disclosure Procedures Law Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-14

This bill amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists by:

1. Permitting a lobbyist to notify the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of the termination of a lobbying relationship rather than requiring notice by the lobbyist's employer;
2. Removing the requirement that state employees must sign annual registration forms in order to facilitate electronic submission of registrations; and
3. Requiring the commission to deposit the entire registration fee paid by lobbyists and lobbyist associates into a special revenue account to be spent on administrative and technology costs to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance information to the public.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-14)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 378 An Act To Facilitate the Issuance of a Gravestone for a Deceased
Veteran with No Next of Kin PUBLIC 208**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND LUCHINI	OTP-AM	S-126