

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**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

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127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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*

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

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

This bill makes the Adjutant General the next of kin to a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relatives and directs the Adjutant General to ensure the veteran receives all death benefits, including a grave marker from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-126)**

This amendment clarifies that the Adjutant General may appoint a designee to be considered next of kin for a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relative.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 208 makes the Adjutant General, or the Adjutant General's designee, the next of kin to a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relatives and directs the Adjutant General to ensure the veteran receives all death benefits, including a grave marker from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

**LD 383      An Act Requiring Corporations To Have Approval from a Majority of Their Shareholders before Making Political Contributions Valued at Greater Than \$5,000      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK TIPPING-SPITZ	ONTP	

This bill requires a majority vote of shareholders in order for a Maine corporation to make a political contribution or expenditure of over \$5,000 and requires that once the contribution or expenditure has been made the corporation send notice to its shareholders and post the notice on its website. This bill makes a director who makes a contribution in violation of these conditions personally liable to the corporation in the amount of the contribution or expenditure plus 6% interest per year.

**LD 412      An Act Regarding Telephonic Political Communications and Push Polling      Died Between Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER BREEN	OTP-AM	H-32

This bill amends the political communications laws to require that all prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted live telephone communications, including those made for the purposes of researching the views of voters, that name a clearly identified candidate during the 21 days before a primary election or the 35 days before a general election clearly state at the start of the call the name of the person or organization that made or financed the expenditure for the communication. The bill requires that, for scripted live telephone communications, if the respondent requests additional information on the person or organization that made or financed the expenditure for the communication, the caller must describe where such information, including information relating to the source or sources of funding for the person or organization, is available for inspection. The bill also amends the push polling laws to require that a caller disclose at the start of a call the person or organization sponsoring or authorizing the call and the organization making the call if different from the sponsor. Current law requires only that these disclosures be made at some point during the call. This bill also requires that, if a respondent requests additional information on the person or organization sponsoring or authorizing the call, the caller must describe to the respondent where such information, including information relating to the source or sources of funding for the person or organization, is available for inspection.