

# 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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# STATE OF MAINE

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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*

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.

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-32)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It requires that a political communication in the form of a prerecorded automated telephone call must clearly state the name of the person who financed the expenditure for the communication at the beginning of the call. Current law does not specify when during the call this statement is required.

**LD 413 An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots**

**Accepted Minority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the third day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a third person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-59)**

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. Current law provides for certain circumstances when a voter is permitted to request an absentee ballot after the third business day preceding election day. One of those circumstances is when a voter attests that the voter will be unexpectedly absent from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day. The amendment provides that an application for an absentee ballot may be accepted after the deadline if the voter will be absent on election day without the voter attesting that the absence was unexpected.

**LD 507 An Act To Allow Primary Petition Signature Requirements To Be Proportional with Party Enrollment**

**ONTP**

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

This bill changes the law governing a candidate's nomination by primary election for the office of Governor, United States Senator or Representative to Congress. It changes the number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Governor or United States Senator to be 1% of the voters enrolled in the candidate's party and residing in the candidate's electoral district as of December 1st of the year before the election or the current minimum requirement of 2,000 voters, whichever is less. It also changes the number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Representative to Congress to be 1% of the voters so enrolled or the current minimum of 1,000 voters, whichever is less.

**LD 508 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality**

**PUBLIC 128**

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

Current law allows up to eight agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population from 20,000 to 50,000 and up to ten agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 50,000. This bill changes that