

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

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