

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

duration of the election cycle.

LD 620 **An Act To Allow Veterans' Organizations To Own and Operate Slot Machines** **ONTP**

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

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue licenses for the operation of slot machines to charitable nonprofit organizations and off-track betting facilities. A charitable nonprofit organization must have been a bona fide nonprofit for at least two years prior to October 1, 2014 and must own or lease the premises on which the slot machines are operated. An eligible nonprofit charitable organization is limited to five slot machines. Facilities licensed as off-track betting facilities are limited to 50 machines per facility. The bill increases the statewide limit on the number of slot machines to be operated from 3,000 to 3,250.

A charitable nonprofit organization authorized to operate slot machines is required to distribute 30% of net slot machine revenue to the board to be divided among the Gambling Control Board, gambling addiction and treatment programs, the General Fund and the host municipality. An off-track betting facility is required to distribute 45% of net slot machine revenue to the board to be divided among the Gambling Control Board, gambling addiction and treatment programs, the General Fund, the host municipality and the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund.

LD 626 **An Act Regarding Write-in Candidates in Municipal and City Elections** **PUBLIC 160**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON	OTP-AM	S-107

Current law requires municipal and city ballot clerks to count all write-in votes in a municipal or city election regardless of the number of write-in votes cast. This bill provides that a ballot clerk must count and tabulate the votes cast for a write-in candidate only if the printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate or the number of write-in votes exceeds the number of votes for a candidate printed on the ballot.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-107)

This amendment replaces the bill. It provides a local option for municipalities to accept the provisions of state election law governing votes for write-in candidates for their municipal elections of candidates by secret ballot. The amendment also provides that a municipality must count votes for write-in candidates only under certain circumstances, such as when there is no properly nominated candidate or when a properly nominated candidate whose name is listed on the ballot withdraws from the race on or before election day.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 160 provides a local option for municipalities to accept the provisions of state election law governing votes for write-in candidates for their municipal elections of candidates by secret ballot. It also provides that a municipality must count votes for write-in candidates only under certain circumstances, such as when there is no properly nominated candidate or when a properly nominated candidate whose name is listed on the ballot withdraws from the race on or before election day.