

# 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

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*

**LD 754      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine      ONTP**  
**To Ensure That Laws Governing Hunting and Fishing Are Not Subject**  
**to the Citizen Petition Process**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to exclude from laws that may be proposed in a citizen initiative laws governing hunting and fishing.

**LD 761      An Act To Authorize Free Samples of Liquor by a Restaurant      PUBLIC 142**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE	OTP-AM	H-225

This bill allows a restaurant, Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer complimentary samples of wine to a customer subject to certain conditions.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-225)**

This amendment changes the bill by allowing a Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer samples of malt liquor, wine and spirits. The bill allows for restaurants to offer samples of wine only. The amendment provides that a person may not be given more than three samples per day. The amendment also establishes sample size limits. A sample of malt liquor may not exceed three ounces. A sample of wine may not exceed one ounce. A sample of spirits may not exceed one-half of one ounce. Finally, the amendment specifies that samples must be provided in areas of the restaurant where liquor is normally served. Like the bill, the amendment provides that samples are for customers and may not be provided to minors or visibly intoxicated persons.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 142 allows a licensed Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer samples of malt liquor, wine and spirits. It provides that a person may not be provided more than three samples per day and establishes a sample amount limit of one ounce of wine, three ounces of malt liquor and one-half of one ounce of spirits.

**LD 762      An Act To Permit the Penobscot Nation To Operate Electronic      ONTP**  
**High-stakes Bingo**

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

This bill authorizes the Penobscot Nation to use electronic beano terminals for the operation of high-stakes electronic beano. It specifies that an electronic beano terminal is not a slot machine or an illegal gambling machine. An electronic beano terminal plays a game of chance resembling a beano game using a draw of no more than 75 letters and numbers that correspond to the game. The element of chance is determined by a central computer server system that is subject to testing by an independent testing company and to which the Chief of the State Police is provided access via the Internet for the purpose of conducting audits and monitoring play. An electronic beano

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

terminal is not permitted to dispense cash or prizes. Instead, prizes for high-stakes electronic beano are awarded by voucher. The bill also clarifies that, unlike traditional beano, beano conducted on an electronic beano terminal is not required to be a group game.

**LD 770      An Act To Permit Maine Residents To Register To Vote Online      ONTP**

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

This bill requires the Secretary of State to implement a system that allows a person to register to vote online. The system requires an applicant to provide certain information, which is verified using driver's license or nondriver identification card data maintained by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles. An applicant must submit an affidavit attesting that all information provided in the electronic voter registration application is true. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules to administer the electronic voter registration system and requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration matters.

**LD 777      An Act To Establish a Seasonal Agency Liquor License      ONTP**

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

This bill establishes a seasonal agency liquor store license. It authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to issue one seasonal license in a municipality with a year-round population of at least 5,001 if between June 1st and October 1st the population increases by a number that would otherwise qualify the municipality for an additional agency liquor store license.

**LD 779      An Act To Increase the Minimum Population Requirement for a Municipality in Which the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations May Locate an Additional Agency Liquor Store      PUBLIC 221**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ THERIAULT	OTP-AM	S-159

This bill increases from 2,000 to 5,000 the allowable population of a municipality in which the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations may establish an additional liquor store.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-159)**

This amendment clarifies that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations may license one agency liquor store in a municipality with a population of less than 2,000. This amendment also authorizes the bureau to issue one additional liquor store license in a municipality with a population of less than 10,000, instead of 5,000 as in the bill, and to consider the impact of seasonal population or tourism when determining whether to issue the additional license. Finally, this amendment specifies that a waiver from time requirements does not apply to certain applicants for an additional liquor store license in a municipality that already has the authorized number of liquor store licenses.