

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

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> RUSSELL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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> LUCHINI LANGLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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> KATZ THERIAULT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-159
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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.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 221 clarifies current law stating 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. It also authorizes the bureau to issue one additional liquor store license, beyond the current limitation, in a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 and to consider the impact of seasonal population or tourism when determining whether to issue the additional license. Finally, chapter 221 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.

LD 790 An Act To Make Political Advertising Accountable and Transparent ONTP

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

This bill requires a communication that is intended to influence a ballot question election and that depicts a wildlife management practice to include information about any image or video used in the communication whether or not the practice is legal in the State. It also requires that if a communication includes an image or video of a wildlife management practice the communication must state the location where the image or video was created and the date on which it was made.

LD 804 An Act To Establish the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee ONTP

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

This bill, which proposes to enact a Private and Special Law, establishes the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee to serve as a clearinghouse of information and suggested legislation regarding veterans' issues at the local, state and federal levels.

LD 805 Resolve, Authorizing Certain Individuals To Bring Suit against the Department of Health and Human Services CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARNSWORTH DUTREMBLE		

This resolve authorizes Sara Bachelder individually and on behalf of her two minor children; Danielle and Christopher Pouliot individually and on behalf of their minor child; Hannah and Brett Williams individually and on behalf of their minor child; Tonya Later and Albert Sico III individually and on behalf of their minor child; and Michelle Tapley individually and on behalf of her minor child to bring suit against the Department of Health and Human Services for damages in connection with actions taken by the Department of Health and Human Services and constitutes a waiver of the State's defense of sovereign immunity.

This resolve was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.