

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

LD 837	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit the Application of a Citizen Initiative Concerning Wildlife Matters to Counties in Which It Is Approved	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHAW	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that a citizen initiative concerning wildlife matters that is approved by vote of the people applies only in counties in which a majority of the votes in those counties approved the initiative.

LD 838	An Act To Enhance Equity and Efficiency for Off-track Betting Facilities	PUBLIC 200
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PICCHIOTTI	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-206
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This bill adjusts the distribution of commissions on simulcasting of races with commingled pools originating at a racetrack in another state by an off-track betting facility without reducing the portion of those revenues that benefit the State. In addition, the bill eliminates the off-track betting facility simulcast fund share received by a commercial track whose parent company is owned or operated or owned and operated by a casino in this State. The bill also modifies the requirement that an off-track betting facility operator be a liquor license holder, but maintains the requirement that an off-track betting facility be situated in a facility that is licensed to serve liquor and food. The bill also eliminates the requirement for at least 150 race dates in the preceding two calendar years before interstate simulcasting or the licensing of an off-track betting facility is allowed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-206)

This amendment changes the definition in the bill of "net commission" to reduce the reduction for amount wagered from 6.5% to 4%. The amendment removes the section in the bill that provides an exception to the requirement that an off-track betting licensee must also have a liquor license. The amendment also strikes the provision of the bill that eliminates payments of the off-track betting facility simulcast fund share to a commercial track whose parent company operates a casino in the State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 200 establishes a definition of "net commission" as it applies to how wagers are distributed by those licensed by the Harness Racing Commission to accept wagers on horse racing. Net commission is defined as the total commission less 4% of the amount wagered on a race. Chapter 200 adjusts the distribution of commissions on simulcasting of races with commingled pools originating at a racetrack in another state by an off-track betting facility. This law also eliminates the requirement for at least 150 race dates in the preceding two calendar years before interstate simulcasting or the licensing of an off-track betting facility is allowed.

LD 850	An Act To Establish Special Elections To Fill United States Senate Vacancies	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MOONEN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill provides that, when there is a vacancy in the office of United States Senator, the Governor is required to issue a proclamation declaring the vacancy and ordering a special primary election, which must be held no later than 100 days after the vacancy occurred, followed by a special election to fill the vacancy.

LD 858 An Act To Better Inform the Public of Election Results

PUBLIC 146

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER	OTP-AM	S-130

This bill requires the municipal clerk, as soon as the ballots in an election are counted, to post the results in a place accessible to the public so that they may be viewed when the municipal office is closed.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-130)

This amendment requires an election official to post a paper copy of the unofficial results of an election as soon as practicable after the ballots are counted at the voting place or municipal office if there is a secure place at the voting place or municipal office where the public may view the results even when the voting place or municipal office is closed. The amendment establishes this requirement in a separate section rather than in the section of law that requires the declaration by the warden of the results after the ballots are counted, as in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 146 requires an election official to post a paper copy of the unofficial results of an election as soon as practicable after the ballots are counted at the voting place or municipal office if there is a secure place at the voting place or municipal office where the public may view the results even when the voting place or municipal office is closed.

LD 904 An Act To Increase Fairness in Campaign Financing

CARRIED OVER

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

Current law limits the amount individuals, political committees, political action committees and other entities may contribute to a candidate for Governor to \$1,500 in any primary, general or special election. The limit for a legislative candidate is \$350 per election. This bill provides that individuals, political committees, political action committees and other entities may contribute a total of \$3,000 to a candidate for Governor, including a maximum of \$1,500 for a primary election, and a total of \$750 to a legislative candidate, including a maximum of \$375 for a primary election.

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

LD 923 An Act To Create Jobs and Increase Consumer Wine Choice

ONTP

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