MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

May 2016

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STATE OF MAINE

127ᵀᴴ LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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 Second 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.

CARRIED OVER...*carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature*
CON RES XXX ....*chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses*
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.............................. *Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died*
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES ....*House & Senate disagreed; legislation died*
DIED IN CONCURRENCE .... *defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died*
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT...*action incomplete when session ended; legislation died*
EMERGENCY..*enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment*
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or PASSAGE.........................*emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote*
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE... *failed to receive final majority vote*
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT............................*legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote*
HELD BY GOVERNOR............. *Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session*
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW...*sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY........................*ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died*
INDEF PP... *indefinitely postponed; legislation died*
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... *ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died*
P&S XXX.. *chapter # of enacted private & special law*
PUBLIC XXX .... *chapter # of enacted public law*
RESOLVE XXX .... *chapter # of finally passed resolve*
VETO SUSTAINED...*Legislature failed to override Governor's veto*

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127ᵗʰ Legislature is July 29, 2016. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

amends the resolve by stipulating that the total amount of all damages, including costs, combined in all actions brought pursuant to the authority granted in the resolve may not exceed $400,000. The amendment also clarifies that the resolve does not restrict the named individuals to bringing a single action but that multiple individual actions may be brought, subject to the total damages cap of $400,000.

LD 904	**An Act To Increase Fairness in Campaign Financing**	**Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SUKEFORTH G	OTP-AM	
	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-568)

This amendment replaces the bill and was presented in response to the United States District Court decision in *Woodhouse, et al. v. Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, et al.*, United States District Court, District of Maine, Docket No. 1:14-CV-266-DBH.

The amendment provides that contributions received by a candidate for a primary election must be segregated from those received for the general election. The amendment allows a candidate who is unopposed in a primary election to use, in the general election, contributions received for the primary election prior to the deadline by which primary candidates must submit petitions to take part in a primary election. Contributions carried forward from the primary election to the general election are subject to the dollar limits that apply to contributions made to a candidate by a single donor.

The amendment permits a candidate who defeats a primary opponent to carry forward, to the general election, unspent contributions received for the primary election. Regardless of whether the candidate was opposed in a primary election, if the sum of a primary election contribution and a general election contribution from the same donor exceeds contribution limits, the candidate must return at least the excess amount to the donor.

The amendment specifies that contributions received for the purpose of supporting a candidate in a primary election may not be used primarily to support the candidate's general election.

The amendment repeals the limit of $25,000 per calendar year on an individual's aggregate contributions to all political candidates.

The amendment delays the effective date until December 1, 2016 and also makes technical, cross-reference changes.

This amendment was not adopted.