

# 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**

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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*

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	

## Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill allows a person who is not a retailer or wholesaler licensed to sell wine or malt liquor in the State to auction fine and rare wines from a private collection to private collectors, retailers and wholesalers under certain conditions.

### LD 935 An Act Regarding Alcohol Manufacturing Licenses Issued to Research Facilities

PUBLIC 149

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM	S-98

This bill creates a liquor manufacturing license for a research facility at a postsecondary educational institution. Under the bill, other liquor manufacturers, known as subject manufacturers, may produce malt liquor, wine, sparkling wine, fortified wine and spirits at the research facility and the research facility may itself manufacture malt liquor, wine, sparkling wine, fortified wine and spirits for research or instructional purposes, which the research facility also may sell to the State, wholesalers or retailers or directly to the public under certain circumstances.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (S-98)

This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes a research manufacturer license for a state-sponsored postsecondary educational institution that offers course work or degree programs in food sciences or agricultural sciences. The license authorizes the manufacture of malt liquor, wine or spirits by a licensee for educational purposes and as part of an outreach extension program of the institution that provides food science and food processing consultation and educational services through application of the institution's research to promote business development.

#### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 149 establishes a research manufacturer license for a state-sponsored postsecondary educational institution that offers course work or degree programs in food sciences or agricultural sciences. The license authorizes the manufacture of malt liquor, wine or spirits by a licensee for educational purposes and as part of an outreach extension program of the institution that provides food science and food processing consultation and educational services through application of the institution's research to promote business development.

### LD 964 An Act To Provide Access to Private Apartment Complexes for Political Candidates

ONTP

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

This bill allows candidates for office and their accompanying volunteers to access common areas of multiple-unit dwellings such as apartment or condominium buildings, dormitories, fraternity or sorority houses, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or other multiple-unit facilities for the specific purpose of campaigning for that office and leaving campaign materials, subject to certain limitations. This bill does not prohibit denying the candidate access to specific residential units, setting reasonable hours of access, limiting the number of volunteers, requiring an appointment, denying access to a nursing home or assisted living facility for valid health reasons or denying access to or expulsion from a multiple-unit dwelling for good cause. This bill allows an alternative to access if the multiple-unit dwelling hosts a candidate forum and all residents receive prior notice of the forum.