

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.

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the price at which the distillery sells its spirits to the State and the price at which the distillery purchases back its own spirits from the State and any associated fees and taxes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-349)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It allows a small distillery that produces less than 25,000 gallons of spirits per year to sell its own spirits at the distillery without these spirits having to be transported away from the distillery, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 990 An Act To Limit Agency Expenditures To Influence Elections ONTP

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

This bill prohibits state agencies from expending public resources to influence the outcome of a direct initiative of legislation, a people's veto referendum or other statewide referendum except to provide an impartial factual summary regarding what is at issue. It also extends the law governing the involvement of executive branch employees in elections to include direct initiatives of legislation, people's veto referenda and other statewide referenda.

LD 997 An Act To Streamline Licensing Requirements for and Payments from Veterans' Organizations CARRIED OVER

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to streamline licensing and registration requirements for veterans' organizations and the method of payments by those veterans' organizations.

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

LD 1066 An Act To Provide for the Licensing of a Casino Owned by the Maliseet Tribal Government on Tribal Lands in Aroostook County ONTP

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

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue a casino license to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. A casino licensed under this bill would be located on tribal land in the Town of Houlton and would be limited to 350 slot machines at the facility. The casino would be required to distribute 35% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income to scholarships at secondary educational institutions in the State, federally recognized Indian tribes in the State, gambling addiction services, agricultural fairs, harness racing purses, the casino host county and municipality, Washington County and multiple municipalities in both Aroostook and Washington counties, the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund and other funds. Approval for the

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casino is contingent on a referendum vote in Aroostook County. The bill also provides that the initial application fee of \$225,000 is not due until the casino has been in operation for one calendar year. The bill also amends existing law that requires entities receiving slot machine revenue to report on how those funds are spent.

LD 1067 An Act To Protect the Maine Clean Election Fund ONTP

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

This bill requires a political action committee or party committee that makes an expenditure in support of a certified candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act or against an opponent of a certified candidate to pay to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices an amount equal to 10% of that expenditure for deposit in the Maine Clean Election Fund.

LD 1083 An Act To Facilitate the Use of Half-gallon Containers for Malt Liquor at Maine Brew Pubs ONTP

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

This bill removes the requirement that the bottles breweries or small breweries use to sell malt liquor for off-premises consumption from their licensed on-premises establishment, typically half-gallon containers, be provided by the breweries and have labels unique to each brewery.

LD 1084 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Exclude Wildlife Issues from Citizen Initiatives ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY M BRAKEY	ONTP	

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

LD 1111 An Act To Provide Funding to Municipalities To Assist with the Maintenance of Veterans' Graves ONTP

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

This bill creates the Municipal Veterans' Graves Fund, administered by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, and appropriates \$1,000,000 to provide grants to municipalities for the maintenance of veterans' graves in municipal cemeteries.