

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

STAFF:

DANIELLE FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. SCOTT W. CYRWAY, CHAIR
SEN. RONALD F. COLLINS
SEN. JOHN L. PATRICK

REP. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR
REP. THOMAS R. W. LONGSTAFF
REP. ROBERT J. SAUCIER
REP. JOHN C. SCHNECK
REP. KIMBERLY J. MONAGHAN
REP. JARED F. GOLDEN
REP. JONATHAN L. KINNEY
REP. BETH P. TURNER
REP. KATHLEEN R. J. DILLINGHAM
REP. SHELDON MARK HANINGTON
REP. HENRY JOHN BEAR

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST 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 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 1183

An Act To Strengthen the Craft Distillery Industry in Maine

ONTP

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

This bill caps the tax the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Liquor and Lottery Commission may levy on spirits produced by a distillery in the State that distills 50,000 gallons per year or less at no more than 18% of the price the State pays the distillery for the spirits. The bill requires that the distillery must use state-grown products, not including water, as a majority of the spirits' substrate, which is the sugary mixture from which alcohol or spirits are distilled.

LD 1189 An Act To Make Certain Local Primaries Nonpartisan

ONTP

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

This bill creates an open, nonpartisan petition and primary process for nomination of candidates for election to the positions of register of probate, district attorney and sheriff. If more than two candidates are qualified for an office through the petition process, an open primary is held in which all voters, regardless of party affiliation, are eligible to vote. The two candidates getting the highest number of votes are then nominated to appear on the general election ballot. If two or fewer candidates are qualified through the petition process, no primary is held and those candidates appear on the general election ballot.

LD 1192 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THIBODEAU	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires public disclosure of political contributions of \$250,000 or more during a biennial election cycle by persons to a state-based political action committee, party committee, ballot question committee or candidate. It requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide a voluntary pledge form to political action committees on which they may pledge not to spend money in a Maine Clean Election Act candidate's race and also to post on its publicly accessible website the names of political action committees and the names of an officer of each political action committee and each political action committee's top donor. It amends the law governing political communications to require disclosure of the two highest contributors to a person purchasing a political communication if any such contributor has contributed within the past year at least \$10,000 to the person. It requires that a communication by direct mail of 200 pieces or more must contain, in addition to the authorization and name and address required under current law, the names of individuals or businesses that have made aggregate donations of \$200,000 or more within the past year to the person making the communication. It requires a political action committee that transfers over \$25,000 in the aggregate during a biennial election cycle to another political action committee to pay a fee of one-quarter of that aggregate amount to the Maine Clean Election Fund. It also requires a labor union to send a letter to each of its members within three weeks of an election for Governor, State Senator or State Representative stating which state-based political action committees, party