

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**

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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

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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.

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 FINAL 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 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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committees, ballot question committees and candidates the labor union contributed to during the previous biennial election cycle and the total amount of money contributed to each entity and candidate and allows a member to bring suit when a labor union fails to do so.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-154)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes all of the sections of the bill except for the provision that requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide a form to political action committees on which the treasurer or principal officer of a political action committee pledges not to spend money in a Maine Clean Election Act candidate's race. The amendment also clarifies that the pledge is voluntary.

LD 1197

An Act To Allow Certificate of Approval Holders under the Liquor Licensing Laws To Donate Alcohol to Nonprofit Organizations

PUBLIC 214

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SAVIELLO BLACK | OTP-AM | S-152 |

This bill allows certificate of approval holders under the liquor licensing laws to donate a gift certificate to purchase their products or donate their products to an incorporated civic organization for use by the organization as a prize, gift or award. It also allows alcohol producers and wholesalers to provide their products, free of charge or at a reduced price, to a licensee to be served at a licensed on-premises event for the benefit of an incorporated civic organization.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-152)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides examples of charitable or civic purposes within the definition of "incorporated civic organization." Like the bill, the amendment provides that manufacturers and wholesalers may donate malt liquor, wine or spirits to be used as prizes or for auctions to public broadcasting stations, incorporated civic organizations and national organizations with similar purposes to an incorporated civic organization that are 501(c)(3) organizations. Unlike the bill, the amendment provides that these donations may be made without having to provide the donation in the form of a gift card good for the purchase of the alcoholic beverage. The amendment also changes current law by stating that donations may be made to a person who is licensed to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption when the alcohol is being served at an event to benefit an incorporated civic organization in the State or a similarly purposed national 501(c)(3) organization. Current law allows for those donations only to a public broadcasting station or an incorporated civic organization in the State. The amendment also provides that a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to conduct a special taste-testing event may donate its own product to be served at the event.

Finally the amendment provides that when a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the bureau provides product to be served at an event for a licensed incorporated civic organization where alcohol will be consumed on the premises, the manufacturer or wholesaler may serve the product that the manufacturer or wholesaler provided for the event.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 214 provides examples of charitable or civic purposes within the definition of "incorporated civic organization." The law provides that manufacturers and wholesalers may donate malt liquor, wine or spirits to be used as prizes or for auctions to public broadcasting stations, incorporated civic organizations and national organizations with similar purposes to an incorporated civic organization that are 501(c)(3) organizations. It also provides that these donations may be made without having to provide the donation in the form of a gift card good for the purchase of the alcoholic beverage. Chapter 214 changes current law by stating that donations may be made to a person who is licensed to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption when the alcohol

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is being served at an event to benefit an incorporated civic organization in the State or a similarly purposed national 501(c)(3) organization, where current law allows for those donations only to a public broadcasting station or an incorporated civic organization in the State.

This law also provides that a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to conduct a special taste-testing event may donate its own product to be served at the event.

Finally, chapter 214 provides that when a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the bureau provides product to be served at an event for a licensed incorporated civic organization where alcohol will be consumed on the premises, the manufacturer or wholesaler may serve the product that the manufacturer or wholesaler provided for the event.

LD 1213 An Act To Ensure Fair Competition by and between Maine's Commercial Tracks ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VACHON VOLK | ONTP | |

This bill eliminates the deadline for local approval of the operation of slot machines or a casino at a commercial track in the State and allows the commercial track greater latitude in relocating to a municipality that supports the commercial track and harness racing as long as the commercial track does not relocate closer to any existing casino or slot machine facility. The bill also requires that gaming operations be located at the racetrack as part of a fully integrated destination resort and also requires a one-time competitive bidding and fair market value license fee to be determined by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services. The bill provides that most of the revenues distributed from the commercial track are credited to the General Fund.

LD 1219 An Act To Allow Active Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces Who Are at Least 18 Years of Age and under 21 Years of Age To Consume Alcohol at Eligible Veterans' Organization Posts and American Legion Halls ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| NADEAU VALENTINO | ONTP | |

This bill allows a person who is at least 18 years of age but under 21 years of age who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or state military forces to be served and consume alcohol on the premises of a veterans' organization founded, chartered or organized in the State that is eligible to receive a beano or bingo license from the Chief of the State Police.

LD 1228 An Act To Amend the Ballot Initiative Process To Ensure Support in Maine's Congressional Districts ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SHORT DUTREMBLE | ONTP | |

This bill provides that the required number of signatures on petitions for the direct initiative of legislation must include a number of signatures of voters registered to vote in each congressional district that is equal to 10% of the