

# 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.

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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

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total vote for Governor cast in that congressional district in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of the direct initiative.

**LD 1279     An Act To Authorize Advance Deposit Wagering for Horse Racing**

**CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill establishes a framework for the conduct of advance deposit wagering on harness and thoroughbred racing. The bill provides that commercial tracks and established off-track betting facilities are eligible for a license to accept wagers made by telephone or electronic communication using advance deposit wagering. Advance deposit wagering is a form of pari-mutuel wagering in which a bettor establishes an account from which wagers on horse races are made and into which prizes are deposited. An advance deposit wager licensee receives a percentage of each wager made using advance deposit wagering. Advance deposit wagering licenses are issued by the State Harness Racing Commission. The bill prescribes the duties of the commission with regard to enforcement and administration of laws and rules that govern advance deposit wagering. The bill also authorizes multijurisdictional account wagering providers from outside the State to provide advance deposit wagering.

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

**LD 1280     An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief by Expanding Gaming Opportunities**

**CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill establishes the Independent Facility Location Commission to solicit bids for the operation of a casino to be located in Cumberland County or York County. The commission must select the best-value bidder to be issued a casino operator license by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for an initial license fee of \$5,000,000. The winning bidder must construct a destination resort gaming facility with harness racing, slot machines and table games and a resort that includes a hotel, spa, pool, multiple dining options, entertainment venue, retail space and harness racing track. The casino must be approved by the voters of the county in which it is to be located and by the municipal officers or municipality in which the casino is to be located. The casino operator must enter into an agreement with the municipality where the slot machines are located that provides for revenue sharing or other compensation of at least 3% of the net slot machine income. The limit on the number of slot machines that may be registered in the State is raised from 3,000 to 7,500.

The bill establishes the Income Tax Relief Fund. Allocations from the fund must be made to provide income tax relief to the citizens of this State.

The casino operator must distribute 46% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income to the Gambling Control Board for distribution by the board as follows:

1. Two and one-half percent to the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board and for the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund;
2. Twenty percent to supplement harness racing purses;
3. Five percent to the Sire Stakes Fund;