

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND 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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## 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 Second 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.

*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 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 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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 997      Resolve, Authorizing Legislation To Streamline the Laws Governing the Licensing and Conduct of Beano and Games of Chance**

**Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M	OTP-AM	H-554

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-554)**

This amendment strikes the bill, which is a concept draft, and directs the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to meet to develop proposals to streamline the laws governing beano and games of chance with the purpose of simplifying licensure, maximizing revenue to licensed charitable organizations and easing the administrative and enforcement burdens of the Chief of the State Police. The amendment requires the chief to provide certain information to the committee.

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

**PUBLIC 499**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICCHIOTTI J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-614

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-614)**

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment establishes a competitive bid process, administered by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, to authorize one entity to be licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering in the State on horse racing. The board is charged with adopting rules to govern the conduct of advance deposit wagering in addition to administering the licensing process and enforcement of the laws and rules governing the gambling activity.

Advance deposit wagering is a method of wagering on horse racing in which bets are made electronically, by telephone or in person. A bettor establishes an account with the licensee from which the licensee makes

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

withdrawals to place bets on behalf of the account holder and into which the licensee deposits income from winning bets.

Under the amendment, a person is eligible to submit a bid to become the single advance deposit wagering licensee in the State if the person is a commercial track or off-track betting facility licensed in the State or if the person is an entity already licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering in another state. The person is required to execute a contract with the board. The contract will govern the amount of the net commission of advance deposit wagers that will be distributed by the board to recipients such as commercial tracks, the Sire Stakes Fund, the Agricultural Fair Support Fund, off-track betting facilities, harness racing purses and the General Fund. The amendment provides the percentages of the net commission that must be distributed by the board to these recipients.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 499 establishes a competitive bid process, to be administered by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, to authorize one entity to be licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering in the State on horse racing. The board is charged with adopting rules to govern the conduct of advance deposit wagering in addition to administering the licensing process and enforcement of the laws and rules governing the gambling activity. Advance deposit wagering is a method of wagering on horse racing in which bets are made electronically, by telephone or in person. A bettor establishes an account with the licensee from which the licensee makes withdrawals to place bets on behalf of the account holder and into which the licensee deposits income from winning bets.

Under chapter 499, a person is eligible to submit a bid to become the single advance deposit wagering licensee in the State if the person is a commercial track or off-track betting facility licensed in the State or if the person is an entity already licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering in another state. The person is required to execute a contract with the board. The contract will govern the amount of the net commission of advance deposit wagers that will be distributed by the board to recipients such as commercial tracks, the Sire Stakes Fund, the Agricultural Fair Support Fund, off-track betting facilities, harness racing purses and the General Fund. Finally, this law provides the percentages of the net commission that must be distributed by the board to these recipients.

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

**Accepted Report B (ONTP)**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY W COLLINS R	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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 three percent 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