

# 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**

August 2015

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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.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

submit legislation developing this distribution of revenue and provides a list of funds and programs that are required to be included in that distribution.

Finally, the amendment makes enactment of this bill contingent upon the approval of the voters of the State at a statewide referendum held in November 2016.

This bill was reported out of committee, then committed back to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

**LD 1283      An Act To Stimulate Economic Development and Create Jobs by      ONTP**  
**Amending the Laws Governing Gaming**

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

This bill establishes five regions in the State for the operation of casinos. Region 1 includes York County and the Town of Scarborough in Cumberland County. Region 2 includes Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford and Cumberland counties, with the exception of the Town of Scarborough in Cumberland County. Region 3 includes Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Knox counties. Region 4 includes Washington and Hancock counties. Region 5 includes Aroostook and Piscataquis counties. If a region does not have a casino or if an existing casino ceases operation, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services is required to administer a competitive bid process for the privilege to operate a casino, subject to application to and investigation by the Gambling Control Board.

Bids in Region 1 are granted preference if the bidder is associated with the operator of an existing commercial harness racing track in that region. Bids in Regions 4 and 5 are given preference if the operator is associated with a federally recognized Indian tribe eligible to conduct high-stakes beano in that region. The bill provides for a staggered schedule for the authorization of casinos in regions where casinos are not currently operated. The bill provides for minimum bids and requirements for a minimum number of slot machines, table games and other amenities at a facility in each region. Each bidder is also required to submit a nonrefundable privilege fee intended to mitigate the costs of administering the competitive bid process by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and meet the costs of background checks and investigations conducted by the Gambling Control Board. The bill establishes distribution of table game and slot machine revenue for casinos and specifies that the revenue must be used for the purposes specifically described unless otherwise authorized. This distribution will apply to all casinos and slot machine facilities operated in the State as soon as a casino in Region 1 is authorized via the competitive bid process. If an alternative purpose is authorized for the table game or slot machine revenue, all distributions must be reduced in equal proportion.

**LD 1289      An Act To Allow Retail Liquor Licensees To Sell Alcoholic Beverages for      Accepted Majority**  
**On-premises and Off-premises Consumption at One Location      (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAKEY TURNER	ONTP OTP	

This bill provides that a retail establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption may also be licensed as a Class A restaurant or an establishment licensed to sell beer and wine for consumption on the premises as long as alcoholic beverages are served as individual servings by an employee of the on-premises

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

establishment. This bill repeals the existing dual liquor license provision in law.

**LD 1290 An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act and Direct the Savings To Be Used for the State's Contribution toward the Costs of Education Funding**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill, which takes effect January 1, 2016, repeals the Maine Clean Election Act and transfers the remaining balance in the Maine Clean Election Fund to the Department of Education to be used for the State's contribution toward the costs of education funding. This bill also corrects the numerous cross-references to the Maine Clean Election Act in the Maine Revised Statutes.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-266)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, removes the section of the bill that states that money in the Maine Clean Election Fund must be used to support education funding. It also makes the repeal of the Maine Clean Election Act contingent upon approval of the voters of the State by referendum.

**LD 1292 An Act To Allow for Super Cribbage Tournaments**

**PUBLIC 163**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WARD	OTP-AM	H-266

This bill authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue up to three licenses per year for the conduct of a super cribbage tournament.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-266)**

This amendment imposes a \$75 license fee on super cribbage tournaments and requires that 50% of proceeds from the tournament be paid to a charitable organization. The amendment also reduces the minimum number of players required to hold a tournament from 75 to 50 and sets a maximum entry fee of \$100. Finally, the amendment provides that this license provision is repealed September 30, 2017.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 163 authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue up to three super cribbage tournament licenses annually. It imposes a \$75 license fee on super cribbage tournaments and requires that 50% of proceeds from the tournament be paid to a charitable organization. Chapter 163 also reduces the minimum number of players required to hold a tournament from 75 to 50 and sets a maximum entry fee of \$100. Finally, the law provides that this license provision is repealed September 30, 2017.

**LD 1331 An Act To Provide Enhanced Enforcement of the Laws Governing Alcoholic Beverages**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-373