

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**

August 2015

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH 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 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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill provides a definition of "liquor inspector" and provides that the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may require liquor inspectors to receive law enforcement training as a condition of employment. The bill also requires the director to ensure that no less than one-third of the liquor inspector positions under the bureau include a requirement that the liquor inspector must complete law enforcement training.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-373)

This amendment retains the provisions of the bill but requires the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to hire five new liquor inspectors, three of whom must be trained law enforcement officers. The amendment provides an appropriations and allocations section to fund those positions and requires the bureau to report by March 1, 2017 on changes and enhancements to liquor enforcement efforts.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 1335 An Act To Amend the Election Laws

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-251

This bill makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It adds a restriction that a registrar may not serve during an election when an immediate family member of the registrar is a candidate for federal office, and clarifies the language regarding compensation. The restriction previously applied only for candidates for state, local or county offices.
2. It removes the provision regarding the use of a supplemental incoming voting list.
3. It updates the list of the outside agencies that must provide voter registration pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
4. It provides that a primary election for State Senator, State Representative or county office will only be held when there is more than one candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent; when there is at least one candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent and at least one candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate; or when there is no candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent but there is at least one candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate. Otherwise, a party candidate is nominated to the general election ballot based on acceptance of a primary petition.
5. It provides that the written acceptance for a replacement candidate must include a place for the registrar of the candidate's municipality of residence to certify the candidate's registration and enrollment status.
6. It changes the deadline for a candidate to withdraw from 60 days to 75 days before a primary or general election and allows for a replacement candidate. It also specifies that the candidate may withdraw only for good cause and must include that reason in the written notice of withdrawal filed with the Secretary of State.
7. It changes the deadline from 60 days to 75 days before the general election for a nonparty candidate for Vice President to withdraw and allow for a replacement candidate.