

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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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

23. It allows for the use of the Internet to provide a ballot-marking system or software that is used for voters with disabilities, uniformed service voters or overseas voters to mark a ballot and transmit the marked ballot online, as long as the system or software does not tabulate the ballots or transmit the ballot tabulations online.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-251)

This amendment strikes the provision in the bill that requires nomination by primary election for State Senate, State House of Representatives and county offices only when the party nomination is contested. In its place, the amendment provides that, when an elected office has no candidate nominated by petition or a declared write-in candidate, the office is not required to be printed on the primary ballot. The bill requires that withdrawal of a candidate for a primary or general election would have to be for good cause, defined by the bill, and by a prescribed deadline in order to have the candidate's name removed from the ballot and a replacement candidate nominated. The amendment removes the good cause provision but maintains the earlier deadline of 75 days before the election, which is an increase from the 60-day deadline in current law. The bill provides that a municipal clerk may be subject to a civil violation of \$50 per day for each day beyond the required date that election returns are not submitted to the Secretary of State. The amendment applies that civil penalty to the municipality. The amendment retains the provision in the bill that clarifies that a candidate may withdraw after the withdrawal deadline if the candidate is incapacitated by a catastrophic condition or injury; however, the amendment requires a withdrawal request to be accompanied by a certificate signed by a licensed physician instead of at least two physicians.

LD 1343

An Act To Increase Access to Postsecondary Education for Maine National Guard Members

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE WHITTEMORE	OTP-AM	H-364

This bill provides for a tuition waiver for 100% of tuition costs at any state postsecondary education institution for qualified members of the Maine National Guard.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-364)

This amendment establishes the Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund and appropriates \$500,000 per year of the next biennium to the fund. It amends existing law regarding education assistance grants to Maine National Guard members to govern the distribution of the tuition benefit provided by the bill. Under the bill, tuition assistance is provided in the form of waivers from a state postsecondary education institution. The amendment provides that the Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund will provide for 100% of an eligible member's tuition costs. If the tuition benefit costs exceed the amount in the fund, the amendment states that the benefit will be provided in the form of a waiver from the state postsecondary education institution. The amendment clarifies that tuition does not include lab fees or other mandatory fees charged to students. The amendment specifies that the benefit entitles a member to one postsecondary education credential, whether it be at the associate, baccalaureate, certificate or licensure level. The amendment specifies that a member must first pursue all other state, federal and employer-provided benefits available and have not previously earned a bachelor's degree in order to qualify for the tuition benefit proposed by the bill. The amendment also strikes provisions in the bill that would eliminate certain potential sources of revenue to be used for education assistance for members of the Maine National Guard.

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.