

# 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*

**LD 1346 An Act To Establish a Comprehensive Gaming Policy**

ONTP

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

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue two casino licenses, one in the southern region of the State, which includes York County and Cumberland County, and one in the northern region of the State, which includes Penobscot County, Washington County and Aroostook County. In order to be eligible to apply for a casino license, an applicant must be awarded the privilege to submit an application pursuant to a competitive bidding process. The competitive bidding process is administered by a site location commission established by this bill. The Casino Site Location Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over casino gaming and confirmation by the Senate. The bill provides that commission members may not have a conflict of interest and are prohibited from representing or being employed by gambling interests during their term on the commission and for five years after their term ends.

Under the bill, a successful bidder for a casino in the southern region of the State must propose a capital investment of at least \$250,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a southern region casino is \$5,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a \$250,000 application fee and \$100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a southern region casino is \$250,000.

A successful bidder for a casino in the northern region of the State must propose a minimum capital investment of \$25,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a northern region casino is \$1,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a \$100,000 application fee and a \$100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a northern region casino is \$100,000.

The bill provides factors that the commission is directed to consider when reviewing bids for the privilege to submit an application to operate a casino. Examples of those factors include: how the proposal from a bidder will result in the highest potential benefit to the State based on documented, expert market analyses, the potential of the proposed facility to serve as a tourism destination and how the proposal will preserve existing jobs and preserve new full-time jobs in the State. For a casino bid in the southern region, the commission must consider the bidder's experience operating a commercial harness racing track and how the casino will benefit the harness racing industry and associated businesses. For the casino bid in the northern region, the commission is directed to consider how the proposal will provide the greatest benefit to one or all of the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State, particularly by proposing operation and ownership by one or more of the tribes. With regard to the location of a northern region casino, the commission is directed to consider either the proposed facility's proximity to the Canadian border and major transportation routes or whether it will be located where gaming is currently conducted by a federally recognized Indian tribe regardless of whether that facility will be within 30 miles of a casino licensed prior to January 1, 2015.

Finally, the bill provides that the required revenue distributions from casinos licensed before January 1, 2015 be held by the Gambling Control Board until a uniform distribution structure of slot machine and table game revenue is enacted by the Legislature.