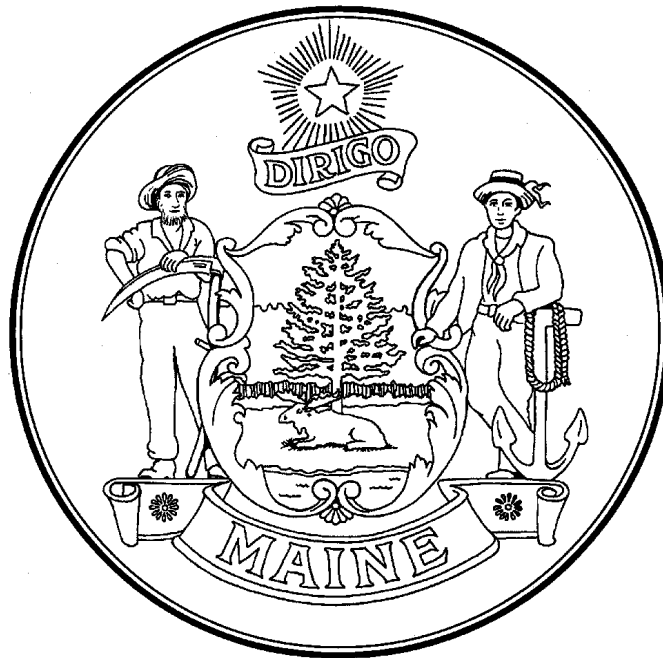


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

STAFF:

DANIELLE FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

recognized Indian tribes in the State. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the operator.

The license fee for a casino under the bill is \$1,000,000 for a five year term with a renewal fee of \$100,000.

The bill sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue for the casino at 46% and sets the distribution of net table game revenue for the casino at 16%. The bill authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to submit legislation establishing a distribution of the slot machine and table game revenue required to be paid by the casino.

LD 1449 **An Act To Amend the State Election Laws**

PUBLIC 350

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

S-336 CYRWAY

This bill was reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to joint order, S.P. 551.

This bill makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It allows the Secretary of State to accept voted absentee ballots from uniformed service voters and overseas voters by an electronic means authorized by the Secretary of State.
2. It allows for the connection of individual voting devices to a central server operated or managed by the Secretary of State for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities by other than a wired, point-to-point telephone connection.
3. 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.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-336)

This amendment amends the laws governing campaign finance and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

1. Current law requires a traditionally financed legislative candidate to file a declaration stating whether or not the candidate will accept voluntary spending limits. This amendment makes that filing optional.
2. It provides an exemption from filing primary election campaign finance reports for legislative candidates who file a sworn statement with the commission stating that they will not conduct financial activity for the primary election. This exemption is available only to candidates with no opponent in the primary election and does not exempt candidates from filing campaign finance reports for the general election.
3. Under current law a person, party committee or political action committee must file a report when making an independent expenditure in excess of \$100 in a candidate's campaign. This amendment raises that threshold for reporting to \$250.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 350 makes changes to the laws governing elections and the laws governing campaign

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

finance and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

1. Current law requires a traditionally financed legislative candidate to file a declaration stating whether or not the candidate will accept voluntary spending limits. Chapter 350 makes that filing optional.
2. It provides an exemption from filing primary election campaign finance reports for legislative candidates who file a sworn statement with the commission stating that they will not conduct financial activity for the primary election. This exemption is available only to candidates with no opponent in the primary election and does not exempt candidates from filing campaign finance reports for the general election.
3. Under current law a person, party committee or political action committee must file a report when making an independent expenditure in excess of \$100 in a candidate's campaign. Chapter 350 raises that threshold for reporting to \$250.
4. It allows the Secretary of State to accept voted absentee ballots from uniformed service voters and overseas voters by an electronic means authorized by the Secretary of State.
5. It allows for the connection of individual voting devices to a central server operated or managed by the Secretary of State for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities by other than a wired, point-to-point telephone connection.
6. 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.