

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND 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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STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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

16. It extends the deadlines after an election by which the municipal clerk and the registrar of voters must complete updates to the central voter registration system.

17. It changes the filing deadline for a declaration of write-in candidacy from 45 days to 60 days before the election.

18. It allows the Secretary of State, in agreement with the parties involved in a recount of a statewide office or referendum or an office or referendum that encompasses more than one county, to retrieve the ballots and conduct the recount in stages.

19. It clarifies the provision of law that provides that an apparent winning candidate may request a recount if the official tabulation of the vote communicated to the Governor shows that candidate as the losing candidate.

20. It lowers the threshold for requiring a deposit of \$500 in order for a candidate to request a recount.

21. It imposes a deadline of 5:00 p.m. on election day for a uniformed service or overseas voter to submit a voter registration application or absentee ballot request in order to qualify for a ballot for that election.

Public Law 2015, chapter 447 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 2016.

**LD 1508 An Act Regarding the Distribution and Off-site Storage of Spirits by
Licensed Reselling Agents**

PUBLIC 434

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L THIBODEAU M	OTP OTP-AM	H-570

This bill amends current law governing a licensed reselling agent's licensed off-site facility. The bill authorizes a licensed reselling agent to sell spirits to an on-premises licensee at the reselling agent's liquor store location or at the licensed off-site facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-570)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, maintains the provision in the bill that permits a reselling agent to process sales of spirits to on-premises licensees from the agent's licensed off-site facility but provides that the off-site facility must be located within five miles of the reseller's agency store location. Current law states that the off-site facility may be located up to 30 miles from the agency store.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 434 permits a reselling agent to process sales of spirits to on-premises licensees from the agent's licensed off-site facility but provides that the off-site facility, must be located within five miles of the reseller's agency store location. Prior to this law being enacted, an off-site facility could be located within 30 miles of the reseller's agency store.

**LD 1509 An Act To Simplify the Filing of Campaign Independent Expenditure
and 24-hour Reports**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	ONTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill narrows the requirement for political action committees, ballot question committees and party committees to disclose within 24 hours expenditures greater than \$1,000 made in the last 13 days before an election. The 24-hour reporting requirement is limited to expenditures for communications to voters to influence a ballot measure, expenditures for polling activities and expenditures in the form of contributions to a political action committee, party committee, ballot question committee or candidate.

The bill permits organizations making independent expenditures to affirm in writing or electronically that the expenditure was made independently of candidates in the race without requiring that the statement be made under oath.

LD 1510 An Act To Improve the Disclosure of Financial Activities by Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees

PUBLIC 408

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-527

This bill amends the law governing campaign financing and reporting by:

1. Clarifying that the definition of "political action committee" does not apply to an individual;
2. Requiring political action committees to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices within seven days of receiving contributions totaling more than the applicable threshold of \$1,500 or \$5,000;
3. Requiring ballot question committees to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in a manner similar to political action committees, including appointing a principal officer who would be jointly liable with the committee and the committee treasurer for penalties assessed against the committee;
4. Establishing a uniform threshold of \$100 for both political action committees and ballot question committees regarding political contributions in campaign finance reports; and.
5. Modifying the criteria for when a political action committee must report a contribution made for the purpose of influencing a candidate or ballot question election.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-527)

This amendment removes the provisions in the bill that increase the threshold for itemizing expenditures for political action committees from \$50 to \$100. Under the amendment both political action committees and ballot question committees are required to itemize expenditures exceeding \$50. The amendment also removes the provision in the bill that establishes a framework for reporting by political action committees and ballot question committees of contributions received from multipurpose organizations for the purpose of influencing a candidate election or ballot question.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 408 amends the law governing campaign financing and reporting. It clarifies that the definition of "political action committee" does not apply to an individual and requires political action committees to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices within seven days of receiving contributions totaling more than the applicable threshold of \$1,500 or \$5,000.

Chapter 408 also requires ballot question committees to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in a manner similar to political action committees, including appointing a principal officer who