

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**

May 2016

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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 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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

would be jointly liable with the committee and the committee treasurer for penalties assessed against the committee.

Finally, this law establishes a uniform threshold of \$50 for both political action committees and ballot question committees regarding reporting political contributions in campaign finance reports.

LD 1511 An Act To Allow Retailers To Return Promotional Alcoholic Beverages to Wholesalers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E THIBODEAU M	ONTP	

This bill changes the liquor laws to allow an off-premises retail licensee to return promotional alcoholic beverages to a licensed wholesaler.

LD 1520 An Act To Amend Maine's Military Bureau Laws ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANINGTON S CYRWAY S	ONTP	

This bill adds the office of the state judge advocate to the definition of "criminal justice agency." It also amends the laws regarding rights and liabilities of state military forces members by providing members with immunity for the use of deadly force under certain conditions and by providing that Army National Guard and Air National Guard military police officers and security forces have certain rights of law enforcement officers.

LD 1524 An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Homes PUBLIC 397

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ R	OTP OTP-AM	

This bill updates the laws governing the Maine Veterans' Homes and repeals outdated provisions. It removes references to specific veterans' home locations. It increases the borrowing authority of the Maine Veterans' Homes from \$15,000,000 to \$50,000,000. It repeals a requirement that the Maine Veterans' Homes develop and implement a geriatric training program. It changes the title of the position of the person who administers the homes from administrator to chief executive officer. It repeals a requirement relating to payment of costs by veterans admitted to the homes. It repeals a requirement that excess funds be transferred to the General Fund. It repeals a provision relating to the use of stipend funds. It makes changes to an annual reporting requirement. It also makes technical changes to provide consistent reference to the Maine Veterans' Homes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-368)

This amendment, which is the minority report, maintains existing law that prescribes the number of beds at various Maine Veterans' Homes locations but strikes the provisions that establish the number of beds that certain facilities may not exceed. The amendment maintains the requirement that some facilities have a specific number of beds dedicated to dementia patients. The bill proposes to remove any specific requirements for the number of beds at any facility and for the location of the facilities, which have already been constructed.

This amendment was not adopted.