

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.

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candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidate with the most votes in the final round is elected.

LD 1574 An Act To Protect Maine Voters from Intimidating Video Recording at the Polls **PUBLIC 422**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND G VEROW A	OTP-AM ONTP	S-366 S-431 DIAMOND G

This bill provides that videotaping in the voting place must be located outside the guardrail enclosure a minimum of 15 feet away from a voter being videotaped, including a voter at a location where a person is collecting voters' signatures.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-366)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the term "videotaping" with "video recording." It also clarifies that video recording a voter in violation of the 15-foot buffer established by the bill may result in the person's being removed from the voting place at the direction of the warden.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-431)

The bill, as amended by Committee Amendment "A," authorizes the warden to remove from the voting place a person who is video recording closer than 15 feet from a voter being recorded. This amendment instead provides that it is the municipal clerk, at the recommendation of the warden, who is authorized to remove such a person.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 422 provides that video recording in the voting place must be located outside the guardrail enclosure a minimum of 15 feet away from a voter being video recorded, including a voter at a location where a person is collecting voters' signatures. Recording a voter in violation of the 15-foot buffer may result in the person being removed from the voting place by a municipal clerk at the recommendation of the warden.

LD 1610 An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Certain Benefits Provided to Veterans and Military Service Members **Died On Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-583

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 19 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

This bill implements the recommendations of a subcommittee established to streamline the criteria for the delivery and administration of state-established services and benefits to veterans and military service members in the State. The bill repeals the definition of "wartime veteran" with regard to small business loans administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. It provides an alternative to license plates as a method of showing eligibility for free day-use admission to state parks by disabled veterans by directing the Secretary of State to provide for a sticker to be placed on the veteran's driver's license or state identification card. The bill also provides that a person with a veterans registration plate that is also a vanity plate is not required to pay the annual service fee for the vanity plate after an initial \$25 fee is paid. The bill clarifies references to veterans and military service members in the law governing the application of veteran preferences for rental housing administered through municipal housing authorities. Finally, the bill codifies in statute a provision currently in rule that requires the Adjutant General to issue an annual

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report on the expenditures made from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-583)

This amendment provides that free day use passes to state parks and historic sites granted to veterans and active military service members are extended to their spouses and children 21 years of age and younger. It also provides for alternative methods to demonstrate eligibility for free admission for veterans, disabled veterans and active military service members. The amendment makes a technical change to the provision requiring reporting on expenditures made from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund and provides that the report is only required every odd-numbered year. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1611 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans by Establishing an Interagency Council To Coordinate Services for Homeless Veterans

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 48 and then referred back to the committee for processing in the normal course.

This bill implements certain recommendations made by the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans. The bill establishes an interagency council to address homelessness among veterans by maximizing existing services, enhancing communication among providers and improving access to services that support permanent and stable housing for veterans.

This bill, as amended, was incorporated into LD 1612, which was enacted as Public Law 2015, chapter 465.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-582)

This amendment replaces the bill. Like the bill, the amendment implements a recommendation of the Commission To Strengthen and Align Services Provided to Maine's Veterans regarding homelessness among veterans by requiring coordination of agencies that provide services to veterans to maximize resources available to support stable, permanent housing for veterans at risk of homelessness. The bill establishes a new interagency council under the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services. The amendment requires an existing entity, the Statewide Homeless Council, to develop a strategic plan similar to the plan in the bill. The amendment also requires that the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs regarding the implementation of the plan and its effect on homelessness among veterans.

The amendment also establishes an additional Veterans Service Officer position responsible in part for coordinating efforts to address homelessness among veterans in the State. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.