

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> 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

**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  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla>

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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 Second 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.

*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 127<sup>th</sup> 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*

and honors provided to veterans. Under this law, the director is required to employ two additional veteran service officers who are not assigned to a particular region but who will be directed to where the service needs of veterans are greatest and makes a current temporary position of outreach coordinator permanent.

Public Law 2015, chapter 48 includes changes to current law to address 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. Under this law, the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services is appointed to an existing entity, the Statewide Homeless Council. Chapter 465 requires the Statewide Homeless Council to develop a strategic plan to maximize existing services, enhance communication among providers and improve access to services that support permanent and stable housing for veterans. The director is required to 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. Additionally, the law authorizes the director to employ a veteran service officer whose duties include working on tasks relative to homelessness among veterans.

Chapter 465 provides a sales tax exemption to all federally-chartered veterans' service organizations, beginning August 1, 2016.

This law establishes the Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund to provide for a 100% tuition waiver at any state postsecondary education institution for qualified members of the Maine National Guard. It also transfers funds to the new fund for the costs of the tuition waiver program.

Part of chapter 465 directs the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to identify the needs of student-veterans on their campuses, including needs related to admission, degree completion, transitioning to civilian life and meeting personal and financial obligations, and directs the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to identify existing services that meet the needs identified, assess the effectiveness of those services, determine what services are not being offered that, if offered, would meet those needs and propose services and solutions that fulfill those needs across campuses that are based upon best practices.

Finally, this law provides for allocations to fund the initiatives proposed in this amendment including deappropriating debt service funds from the University of Maine in order to fund the tuition waiver for qualified members of the Maine National Guard and transferring funds from the Gambling Control Board necessary to offset the costs of the other initiatives.

**LD 1666**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices**

**INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP-AM

H-633

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, a major substantive rule of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices that was filed outside the legislative rule acceptance period.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-633)**

This amendment authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices filed after the deadline, as long as certain changes are made. The amendment requires the rules to be

***Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs***

changed to clarify that the presumption that a candidate has confirmed that a person whom the candidate has authorized to collect qualifying contributions on the candidate's behalf applies only with regard to certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and Maine Clean Election Fund distributions and not with regard to findings of violations for which subsequent financial penalties may be applied. The amendment also requires the rules to be changed to state that payments to persons authorized to collect qualifying contributions may be made using only seed money contributions received by the candidate.

**LD 1669      An Act To Require the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations To Provide Annual Reports on Spirits Sales Revenues and Expenditures To Promote Lottery Sales** **Veto Sustained**

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

This bill was reported ought to pass by the committee pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955.

The bill was reported by the committee in response to the report submitted by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations as required by the State Government Evaluation Act under Title 3, section 959, subsection 1, paragraph J.

The purpose of the bill is to ensure the committee has adequate information to facilitate its role of overseeing and monitoring the operation of the Maine State Lottery Commission and the State's spirits business.

The bill requires the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to submit annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over alcoholic beverages and lottery operations matters. Beginning January 15, 2017, the director is required to submit a report of expenditures made to promote lottery sales through advertising and marketing and a report on the gross revenues and operating profits from the sale of spirits in the State.

**LD 1671      Resolve, Compensating Susan Cloutier for Claims against the State** **RESOLVE 84**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HICKMAN C	OTP-AM	H-638 S-523   HAMPER J

This resolve authorizes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 in fiscal year 2016-17, contingent upon receiving releases from claims, to compensate Susan Cloutier and her family for damages resulting from the death of her son and husband in a motor vehicle accident involving a state employee in the Department of Labor. This appropriation is in addition to settlement funds paid or to be paid through the State's self-insurance fund administered by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-638)**

This amendment specifies that the funds compensating Susan Cloutier for damages resulting from the death of her son and husband in a motor vehicle accident involving a state employee in the Department of Labor are provided on a one-time basis.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-523)**

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" to remove the General Fund appropriation from the resolve