

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. SCOTT W. CYRWAY, CHAIR  
SEN. RONALD F. COLLINS  
SEN. JOHN L. PATRICK

REP. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR  
REP. THOMAS R. W. LONGSTAFF  
REP. ROBERT J. SAUCIER  
REP. JOHN C. SCHNECK  
REP. KIMBERLY J. MONAGHAN  
REP. JARED F. GOLDEN  
REP. JONATHAN L. KINNEY  
REP. BETH P. TURNER  
REP. KATHLEEN R. J. DILLINGHAM  
REP. SHELDON MARK HANINGTON  
REP. HENRY JOHN BEAR

# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> 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 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

Additionally, chapter 474 directs the Secretary of State to submit a report by December 2017 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters regarding the fiscal impacts on the State and municipalities of conducting presidential primaries. It also directs the Secretary of State to include in the report recommendations regarding the administration of presidential primaries, including any implementing legislation. These recommendations must specify the content and layout of presidential primary ballots, ensure compliance with federal law governing overseas voters and include other recommendations necessary for proper administration of a presidential primary. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters may submit a bill regarding presidential primaries to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

### **LD 1678    An Act To Change the Definition of "Hard Cider" for Consistency with Federal Law**

**PUBLIC 441**

Sponsor(s)

LUCHINI L

Committee Report

OTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill amends the definition of "hard cider" to be consistent with the definition of "hard cider" in federal law as administered by the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Like the federal definition, the change to the definition of "hard cider" in this bill takes effect on January 1, 2017. The bill increases the allowable alcohol content from 7% to 8.5% and allows hard cider to be produced from the juice of pears as well as of apples.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 441, amends the definition of "hard cider" to be consistent with the definition of "hard cider" in federal law as administered by the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Like the federal definition, the change to the definition of "hard cider" this law takes effect on January 1, 2017. The definition change includes an increase of the allowable alcohol content from 7% to 8.5% and allows hard cider to be produced from the juice of pears as well as of apples.

### **LD 1687    An Act To Assist Small Distilleries**

**PUBLIC 440**

Sponsor(s)

LUCHINI L  
COLLINS R

Committee Report

OTP

Amendments Adopted

Under current law small distillers licensed to manufacture spirits in the State are authorized to have up to two locations where they may sell their product for off-premises consumption and one license to serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. This bill provides that small distillers, distillers who produce up to 50,000 gallons annually, are not required to transport their spirits to a warehouse operated by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations or the bureau's contracted wholesaler for distribution back to the distillers' facilities where they will be sold. The bill requires that small distillers submit monthly reports to the bureau on spirits not transported to a warehouse and pay the required state liquor tax.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Small distillers licensed to manufacture spirits in the State are authorized to have up to two locations where they may sell their product for off-premises consumption and one license to serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Public Law 2015, chapter 440 provides that small distillers, distillers who produce up to 50,000 gallons annually, are not required to transport their spirits to a warehouse operated by the Department of

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations or the bureau's contracted wholesaler for distribution back to the distillers' facilities where they will be sold. Chapter 440 requires that small distillers submit monthly reports to the bureau on spirits not transported to a warehouse and pay the required state liquor tax.

**LD 1688      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Funding of Maine Clean Election Act Candidates      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STETKIS J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires candidates for Governor to collect all seed money contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act, if any, from registered voters in the State and a candidate for State Senator or State Representative to collect all seed money contributions, if any, from registered voters in the candidate's electoral division.

**LD 1690      An Act To Establish a Public Service Berthing Vessel License for the Sale of Liquor      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D HOBBINS B	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to issue licenses to public service berthing vessels for the sale of spirits, wine and malt liquor on overnight voyages of at least one night. The bill establishes requirements and fees for such licensing.