

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST 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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STAFF:

DANIELLE FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, 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

128TH 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 First Regular Session of the 128th 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 FINAL 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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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

gubernatorial election. The resolution provides that, if the required votes are cast in favor of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, the proposed amendment becomes part of the Constitution on March 1, 2018 instead of on the date of the Governor's proclamation.

LD 213 **An Act To Provide Funds for Access for Veterans Seeking Health Care** **Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN J LIBBY N	OTP-AM	H-10

This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$45,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for passports to allow veterans to access United States Veterans Administration health care facilities located on military installations in New Hampshire.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-10)

This amendment directs the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or the commissioner's designee to pay for the fee charged for a passport card issued by the United States Department of State for a veteran who demonstrates a need to access federal military installations located in New Hampshire for medical services provided by the United States Veterans Administration and does not have the required photographic identification required. Unlike the bill, which provides an appropriation to pay for the costs of passports, the amendment provides funding for passport cards. The amendment reduces the appropriation proposed in the bill from \$45,000 to \$15,000. Under the amendment, if any funds appropriated for passport cards remain unspent 90 days following the date upon which the State conforms with the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, that balance must be used to provide financial assistance to veterans and dependents of veterans as prescribed by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 505.

LD 214 **Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification** **RESOLVE 27 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN J JACKSON T	OTP-AM	H-187

This resolve creates the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification to study and address military service members' and veterans' transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The commission is also charged with making recommendations to streamline licensing and certification processes for service members and veterans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-187)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolves 2017, chapter 27 creates the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification to study and address military service members' and veterans' transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The commission is also charged with making recommendations to streamline licensing and certification processes for service members and veterans.

Resolves 2017, chapter 27 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective August 2, 2017.