

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**

August 2017

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST 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 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

This bill prohibits funds distributed to candidates from the Maine Clean Election Fund from being used for post-election parties.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-20)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, clarifies that a Maine Clean Election Act candidate may use personal funds for a post-election party in accordance with rules of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 31 clarifies that a Maine Clean Election Act candidate may use personal funds for a post-election party in accordance with rules of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

LD 413 An Act To Limit the Influence of Lobbyists by Expanding the Prohibition on Accepting Political Contributions

Accepted Report A
(ONTP)

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

Current law prohibits the Governor, members of the Legislature, constitutional officers and the staff or agents of the Governor, members of the Legislature and constitutional officers from soliciting or accepting contributions from a lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer while the Legislature is convened in session. This bill extends application of that prohibition year-round, regardless of whether the Legislature is in session.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-78)

This amendment replaces the bill and is a minority report of the committee. Like the bill, the amendment prohibits a member of the Legislature, the Governor or any constitutional officer from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a lobbyist or an employer. The amendment provides that candidates for the Legislature or Governor are also subject to this year-round contribution prohibition. The amendment also provides that party committees may solicit or accept contributions when the Legislature is not in session as long as a member of the Legislature, the Governor or a constitutional officer is not the treasurer, an officer or primary decision maker or fund-raiser for the party committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-77)

This amendment replaces the bill and is a minority report of the committee. Like the bill, the amendment prohibits a member of the Legislature, the Governor or any constitutional officer from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a lobbyist, a lobbyist associate or an employer. The amendment provides that candidates for the Legislature or Governor are also subject to this year-round contribution prohibition. The amendment clarifies that with regard to a political action committee, party committee or ballot question committee, the prohibition applies to contributions solicited, accepted or given only when the Legislature is in session.

LD 415 An Act To Modify the Amount of Product Samples of Malt Liquor, Wine or Spirits That May Be Provided to Retail Licensees

PUBLIC 35

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G LUCHINI L	OTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Current law allows a brewery, winery or wholesaler to provide to a retail licensee samples of products, limited to nine gallons of malt liquor and nine liters of wine annually. This bill increases the annual limit to 18 gallons of malt liquor and 18 liters of wine.

Current law allows a licensed sales representative for a distilled spirits manufacturer or supplier to give to a retail licensee a maximum of three liters per year per distiller represented by the sales representative. This bill increases the annual limit to six liters per distiller.

Enacted Law Summary

Current law allows a brewery, winery or wholesaler to provide to a retail licensee samples of products, limited to nine gallons of malt liquor and nine liters of wine annually. Public Law 2017, chapter 35 increases the annual limit to 18 gallons of malt liquor and 18 liters of wine.

Current law allows a licensed sales representative for a distilled spirits manufacturer or supplier to give to a retail licensee a maximum of three liters per year per distiller represented by the sales representative. Public Law 2017, chapter 35 increases the annual limit to six liters per distiller.

LD 438 An Act To Provide a Travel Reimbursement to Members of the Maine National Guard ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART H CARPENTER M	ONTP	

This bill allows a member of the Maine National Guard to obtain reimbursement for travel to and from authorized training exercises at the same rate paid to state employees who use their private vehicles for travel for state business.

LD 439 An Act To Allow Voters To Choose Ongoing Absentee Voter Status ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU R BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This bill provides a process for a voter to request ongoing absentee voter status, which allows the voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election until the status is terminated.

LD 440 An Act To Expand Absentee Balloting To Include Certain Residents in Independent Living Facilities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOGAN G CHENETTE J	ONTP	

This bill requires municipal clerks to conduct absentee voting in independent living facilities at the request of the management company managing the facility. The balloting must be conducted in the presence of an election official.