

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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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

collected by others comply with the requirements of the Maine Clean Election Act.

Resolve 2017, chapter 13 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 7, 2017.

LD 465 An Act To Assist Veterans in Their Applications for Service-related Benefits **Died Between Houses**

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

This bill requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide all veterans in the State the opportunity to have their claims represented by the bureau acting under a power of attorney when filing for service-related benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans' service organizations and other organizations dedicated to serving veterans.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-168)

This amendment, the minority report, provides that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services is required to represent all veterans in filing their initial claims for service-related benefits to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill applies this requirement to all claims for service-related benefits and includes claims made to other veterans' service organizations.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 496 An Act To Update Maine's Veterans' Benefits Eligibility Requirements **ONTP**

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

This bill expands eligibility for admission to Maine Veterans' Homes to residents of Maine who served at least 180 days in the Maine National Guard during a federally recognized war period.

LD 510 An Act To Create Fairness in Gaming License Fees for Small Nonprofit Organizations **ONTP**

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

This bill reduces by 75% the annual fee for a license to conduct games of chance and games of cards, including tournament games, for organizations with net revenues from those activities of less than \$10,000 for the prior year.

LD 543 An Act Regarding Political Action Committee Expenditures **PUBLIC 98**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-93

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill prohibits a political action committee from compensating a Legislator or member of the Legislator's immediate family or household or a business owned or operated by the Legislator for services provided to the committee if the Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of the committee or is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for the committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-93)

The bill prohibits a political action committee for which a Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer from compensating a Legislator's family member or household member for services provided to the committee. This amendment removes that prohibition.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 98 prohibits a political action committee from compensating a Legislator or a business owned or operated by the Legislator for services provided to the committee if the Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of the committee or is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for the committee.

LD 544 **An Act To Expand Wine and Beer Tastings at Retail Establishments** **ONTP**

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

Current law allows a person licensed for retail sale of wine or malt liquor for off-premises consumption to conduct taste tastings on the licensee's premises if the licensee stocks at least 125 different labels of wine or 100 different labels of malt liquor. This bill removes the minimum stock requirements.

LD 564 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Increase the Number of Signatures Required for a Direct Initiative of Legislation** **ONTP**

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that the number of signatures on a direct initiative petition be at least 15% of the total vote for President cast in the State in the last presidential election. The Constitution of Maine currently requires this number to be at least 10% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election.

LD 568 **An Act To Require Candidates To Be Listed as Unenrolled If Not Registered with a Recognized Party** **Died Between Houses**

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

This bill requires that the political designation for an unenrolled candidate who is nominated by petition be "unenrolled" and disallows the term "independent" for an unenrolled candidate. This bill also prohibits a candidate