

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

LD 713 Resolve, Authorizing Legislation To Streamline the Laws Governing the ONTP
Licensing and Conduct of Beano and Games of Chance

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M DIAMOND B	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to meet to develop proposals to streamline the laws governing beano and games of chance with the purpose of simplifying licensure, maximizing revenue to licensed charitable organizations and easing the administrative and enforcement burdens of the Chief of the State Police. The resolve requires the chief to provide certain information regarding licensing, revenues and costs of administration to the committee.

LD 714 An Act To Create an Award Program for Maine's Veteran-friendly ONTP
Workplaces

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M CARSON B	ONTP	

This bill creates a veteran-friendly workplace award program through which the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services recognizes employers that employ veterans and that support those veterans by making accommodations to allow the veterans to access or attend medical treatments and appointments and other veteran-related services during the work day.

LD 715 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine ONTP
To Amend the Citizen Initiative Process

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

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that a direct initiative petition contain signatures of at least 15% of the registered voters in each county. The Constitution of Maine currently requires a petition to contain a number of signatures equal to at least 10% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election.

This resolution requires the Secretary of State to hold at least one public debate on the measure proposed in the petition in each senatorial district at which the full text of the measure and any amended form, substitute or recommendation of the Legislature must be read aloud in its entirety.

LD 716 An Act To Improve Requirements for Reporting to the Commission on Died Between
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARRY W COLLINS R	ONTP OTP	

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill amends the laws governing expenditures made for political communications advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the election or defeat of a ballot measure. The bill requires communications made by mail to be posted for delivery within 14 days of the expenditure being made. The bill also requires that a copy of the communication be sent to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in the same manner and form and at the same time as it is sent to those persons the communication is intended to influence.

LD 719 An Act To Allow Slot Machines or a Casino in York County

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill which was submitted to the Legislature pursuant to citizen's initiative, allows slot machines or a casino in York County. It authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to accept an application for a license to operate slot machines or a casino from an entity that owned in 2003 at least 51% of an entity licensed to operate a commercial track in Penobscot County that conducted harness horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering on more than 25 days in 2002 if certain criteria are met.

The operation of the slot machines or casino must be approved by the voters or the municipal officers of the municipality in which the slot machines or casino will be located. The slot machines must be located and operated in a slot machine facility or the slot machines and table games must be located and operated in a casino.

Current law provides that a casino operator license or slot machine operator license may not be issued to operate any casino or slot machine facility within 100 miles of a licensed casino or slot machine facility. This initiated bill exempts a slot machine operator or a casino operator licensed under the provisions of this initiated bill from the 100-mile restriction.

This initiated bill raises the limit on the number of slot machines allowed to be registered in the State from 3,000 to 4,500. The operation of the slot machines or casino is subject to regulation by the Gambling Control Board. The applicant for a slot machine operator license or casino operator license must pay the \$5,000,000 license fee, which applies when in the absence of a competitive bid process, as set out in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1018, subsection 1-A.

The slot machine or casino operator must collect and distribute 1% of gross slot machine income to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board. The slot machine or casino operator must collect and distribute 39% of the net slot machine income to the Gambling Control Board for distribution by the board as follows:

1. One percent must be deposited to the General Fund for administrative expenses of the board except for a certain amount that must be transferred annually to the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund;
2. Ten percent must be credited to a fund to supplement harness racing purses;
3. Three percent must be credited to the Sire Stakes Fund;
4. Three percent must be credited to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund;
5. Ten percent must be credited to the Department of Education to be used to supplement and not to supplant funding for essential programs and services for kindergarten to grade 12;
6. Two percent must be forwarded to the University of Maine System Scholarship Fund and to the Board of