

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

Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy to be applied by the board of trustees to fund its scholarship program;

7. One percent must be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to be applied by the board of trustees to fund its scholarship program;

8. Two percent must be credited to the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial Tracks;

9. Three percent must be forwarded to the Treasurer of State, who must distribute that money at the municipal level throughout the State to be used to reduce property taxes;

10. One percent must be distributed to the tribal governments of the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe;

11. One percent must be forwarded to the Treasurer of State, who must use the money to fund drug education initiatives throughout the State;

12. One percent must be distributed to supplement programs at the office of aging and disability services within the Department of Health and Human Services; and

13. One percent must be forwarded to the municipality in which the slot machines are located.

The casino operator must collect and distribute 16% of the net table game income to the Gambling Control Board for distribution by the board as follows:

- 1. Nine 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;
- 2. Three percent must be deposited to the Gambling Control Board administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account;
- 3. Two percent must be forwarded to the municipality in which the table games are located; and
- 4. Two percent must be deposited into the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund.

This direct initiative will be placed on the ballot for approval by the voters at an election to be held on November 7, 2017.

LD 791

An Act Regarding Advertisements by Maine Clean Election Act Candidates

Died Between Houses

Sponsor(s)

MALABY R

Committee Report

ONTP
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

This bill requires a campaign communication authorized by a candidate who is a certified candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act to state that the communication was paid for with Maine taxpayer funds.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-30)

This amendment, the minority report, makes a clarifying change to the bill by stating that when an expenditure for political communications is made by a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, it is the expenditure that triggers the additional disclosure.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 792 An Act To Authorize Funding for Transitional Housing for Women Veterans and Their Families

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHEATS B CARPENTER M	OTP-AM ONTP	H-58

This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2017-18 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope to provide suitable housing for women veterans in transition and their families.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)

This amendment, the majority report, incorporates a fiscal note.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over, to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

LD 793 An Act To Limit Campaign Independent Expenditures

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILLINGHAM K HAMPER J	ONTP	

This bill limits independent expenditures for candidates for Governor, State Senator and State Representative.

LD 794 An Act Regarding the Taxation of Flavored Malt Beverages

PUBLIC 301

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GUERIN S BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-472

This bill clarifies under the liquor laws that "spirits" does not include a food flavoring or similar product used for cooking that has a high alcohol content and that a "low-alcohol spirits product" does not include malt liquor or malt liquor flavored with a food flavoring or similar product used for cooking that has a high alcohol content to prevent the malt liquor from being taxed as a low-alcohol spirits product.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-472)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment clarifies the definition of "low-alcohol spirits product" and the definition of "spirits" to exclude additives and flavorings, such as extracts and concentrates, that may contain alcohol but are not intended to be consumed alone but serve as a flavor enhancement to food products or beverages. This amendment also specifies that the changes made by this legislation are not intended to affect the taxation of such products prior to July 1, 2019.

Enacted Law Summary