

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
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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

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

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Public Law 2017, chapter 301 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 law also specifies that the changes made by this legislation are not intended to affect the taxation of such products prior to July 1, 2019.

LD 795 An Act To Improve Voter Access to Information Regarding Referendum Questions on the Ballot PUBLIC 246

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE J	OTP-AM	H-404

This bill requires the full text of a direct initiative to be printed on the ballot.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-404)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment requires the election clerk to post a conspicuous notice in the voting place indicating that the citizen's guide to the referendum election is available for voters to read and that it provides helpful information regarding the referendum questions on the ballot.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 246 amends the laws governing the conduct of elections by requiring the election clerk to post a conspicuous notice in the voting place indicating that the citizen's guide to the referendum election is available for voters to read and that it provides helpful information regarding the referendum questions on the ballot.

LD 796 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Referendum Questions for Statewide Ballots ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART H LANGLEY B	ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the total number of signatures required for a direct initiative of legislation to be not less than 10% of the total vote for Governor cast in each county in the last gubernatorial election. It also requires each of the signatures from a county to be that of a person registered to vote in that county.

LD 813 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Political Party Representation of Election Clerks Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRATWICK G DENNO D	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill requires election clerks in a municipality to be selected so that 33% of clerks are from one major party and 33% from another, with 34% of clerks being selected without regard to party enrollment.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-139)

This amendment, the majority report, strikes and replaces the bill, which requires election clerks in a