

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 957 Resolve, To Direct Legislative Staff To Recodify and Revise Title 28-A of the Maine Revised Statutes RESOLVE 18

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY B LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	S-192

This resolve requires the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to convene a study group consisting of representatives of appropriate state agencies and stakeholders, including alcoholic beverage producers, distributors and retailers and representatives of entities that enforce the laws governing alcoholic beverages, to review and propose revisions to the laws governing alcoholic beverages to eliminate outdated laws, respond to industry concerns and support the State's emerging craft beer, wine and liquor industry.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-192)

This amendment strikes and replaces the resolve and changes the title. It directs the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, nonpartisan staff to the Legislature, to prepare a recodification and revision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A. The proposed recodification and revision must be completed by January 15, 2019, and submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over liquor matters for introduction to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2017, chapter 18 directs the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, nonpartisan staff to the Legislature, to prepare a recodification and revision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A. The proposed recodification and revision must be completed by January 15, 2019, and submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over liquor matters for introduction to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 961 An Act To Improve the Cost-efficiency of Funds Disbursed under the Maine Clean Election Act ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J	ONTP	

This bill allows a candidate who receives funds under the Maine Clean Election Act to use a political party's nonprofit postage meter for campaign mailings.

LD 975 An Act Regarding Licensing of Cribbage Tournaments ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L LANGLEY B	ONTP	

This bill provides that a license to conduct games of chance is not required for a cribbage tournament operated on the premises of a restaurant or Class A restaurant licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption or at a manufacturing facility where samples are provided or sold, commonly known as a tasting room. The operator must limit participation to patrons of the establishment who are 21 years of age or older. The operator of a

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

game may not profit and all entry fees must be paid to players in the form of winnings or donated to a charitable organization. Entry fees may not exceed \$25 per person.

A similar proposal was enacted as part of the biennial budget, Public Law 2017, chapter 284 (LD390).

LD 976 An Act Regarding Primary Election Contribution Limits and Contribution Limits for Unenrolled Candidates

Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule

Sponsor(s)
LUCHINI L

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill is presented in response to the United States District Court decision in Woodhouse, et al. v. Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, et al., United States District Court, District of Maine, Docket No. 1:14-CV-266-DBH.

The bill provides that contributions received by a candidate for a primary election must be segregated from those received for the general election. The bill allows a candidate who is unopposed in a primary election to use in the general election primary election contributions received prior to the deadline by which primary candidates must submit petitions to take part in a primary election. Contributions carried forward from the primary election to the general election are subject to the dollar limits that apply to contributions made to a candidate by a single donor. The bill permits a candidate who defeats a primary opponent to carry forward to the general election unspent contributions received for the primary election. Regardless of whether the candidate was opposed in a primary election, if the sum of a primary election contribution and a general election contribution from the same donor exceeds contribution limits, the candidate must return at least the excess amount to the donor.

The bill specifies that contributions received for the purpose of supporting a candidate in a primary election may not be used primarily to support the candidate's general election campaign.

The bill repeals the limit of \$25,000 per calendar year on an individual's aggregate contributions to all political candidates.

Finally, the bill also makes technical, cross-reference changes.

LD 979 An Act Regarding Early Voting in Person

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
PIERCE T
BREEN C

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill allows for municipalities to conduct early voting in person during the same period as absentee voting. Early voting takes place in the municipal offices with the same requirements and restrictions for polling places, voting booths, ballot boxes and ballot challenges as for regular voting. At the end of early voting, the municipal clerk delivers the sealed ballot boxes to the polling place as presently required by law.