

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 792 An Act To Authorize Funding for Transitional Housing for Women Veterans and Their Families

Died On Adjournment

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

This bill was reported out of committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature and then carried over to the Second Regular Session on the Special Appropriations Table. This bill was again carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, from the Second Regular Session to the next special session by joint order, S.P. 748.

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 incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 1201 An Act To Authorize Tribal Gaming

Died Between Houses

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to accept applications for a casino operator license from federally recognized Indian tribes in the State. A license issued to a federally recognized Indian tribe would authorize operation of table games and up to an aggregate total of 1,500 slot machines at multiple facilities on land owned by the tribe. The bill provides that casinos operated by federally recognized Indian tribes are exempt from the requirement that a newly licensed casino may not be within 100 miles of an existing casino or slot machine facility. It also provides that the Gambling Control Board may not license a new casino, slot machine facility or other gambling facility or authorize expansion of existing casinos until all federally recognized Indian tribes have been licensed to operate a casino. The bill establishes a distribution rate of 25% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income for casinos operated by federally recognized Indian tribes. The slot machine income and table game income is deposited to the General Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-697)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. Rather than allowing each federally recognized Indian tribe in the State to operate a casino, it allows one legal entity, referred to as a joint tribal entity, the ownership of which is held equally, either jointly or in common, by the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, to apply for and receive a license to operate a casino.
2. It specifies that, as a condition of a joint tribal entity's receiving a license, a casino must be located:

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

A. On land that on January 1, 2018 was owned by the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs or the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or land held in trust by the United States or by any other person or entity for the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs or the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians;

B. On land located in the unorganized territory; or

C. On land in a municipality and that municipality approves of the operation of the casino in that municipality, either by vote of its legislative body or in a referendum of the voters of the municipality.

3. It exempts a casino licensed to a joint tribal entity from the provision in current law that prohibits a new casino or slot machine facility from being located within 100 miles of an existing casino or slot machine facility. The amendment provides that a casino licensed to a joint tribal entity may not be located within 50 miles of an existing facility.

4. The amendment provides that a change in the composition of a joint tribal entity does not invalidate a casino license issued to the entity as long as the change occurs no sooner than six months after the license is issued and the entity still consists of at least two federally recognized Indian tribes in the State who own equal shares of the entity in its entirety.

5. Finally, the amendment changes the provision in current law that states that distributions of net slot machine revenue from the casino located in Oxford County to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe revert to the operator if one or both operate or receive distributions from a newly licensed casino. The amendment provides that the distribution of that slot machine revenue would instead be deposited into the General Fund if either the Penobscot Nation or the Passamaquoddy Tribe operated or received distributions from a newly licensed casino.

LD 1204 An Act Regarding Absentee Voting by Residents of Nursing Homes and Other Residential Care Facilities

PUBLIC 433

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE J	OTP-AM	H-494

This bill was reported out of committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature and then carried over to the Second Regular Session on the Special Appropriations Table. This bill was carried over, still on the Special Appropriations Table, from the Second Regular Session to the next special session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill amends the law governing the issuance of absentee ballots to a voter who is a resident of a nursing home, a residential care facility or an assisted housing program. The bill prohibits a municipal clerk from issuing an absentee ballot to an immediate family member or a third person for a voter who has granted another person power of attorney and who is receiving medical care due to dementia unless the clerk acquires the consent of the person who has been granted power of attorney. The bill also prohibits a municipal clerk, when facilitating absentee voting at a nursing home, a residential care facility or an assisted housing program, from issuing an absentee ballot to a voter who has granted power of attorney to another person and who is receiving medical care due to dementia unless the clerk acquires the consent of the person who has been granted power of attorney.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-494)

This amendment replaces the bill, which proposes to prohibit the issuance of absentee ballots at nursing and residential care facilities to certain residents who have granted another person power of attorney in the absence of consent of that person who has been granted power of attorney. The amendment instead requires that the municipal