

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

LD 1208 An Act To Amend the Veterans Service Laws

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-140

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing veterans' services.

1. It changes the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.
2. It removes the authority of the bureau to provide grants of temporary and emergency cash assistance to veterans. It authorizes the bureau to accept money to provide financial assistance to veterans and to award grants to organizations that provide assistance to veterans such as housing or emergency assistance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-140)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. The bill repeals current law governing how the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services issues temporary financial assistance to veterans in financial crises and in its place authorizes the bureau to provide grants to private organizations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to veterans. The amendment strikes that provision and establishes an account within the bureau for the purpose of issuing temporary emergency financial assistance to veterans and provides for a transfer of \$375,000 from the administrative account of the bureau to the Other Special Revenue Funds account established by the amendment. The amendment adds a revision clause to change the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services throughout the Maine Revised Statutes.

LD 1210 An Act Regarding the Maine Clean Election Fund

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM ONTP	H-185

This bill is submitted by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

This bill increases the transfer from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000 with \$3,000,000 to be transferred on or before January 1, 2018 and \$3,000,000 to be transferred on or before May 30, 2018. It decreases by \$1,300,000, from \$3,000,000 to \$1,700,000, the transfer from the General Fund to the Maine Clean Election Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, incorporates a fiscal note.