

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

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/>

MEMBERS:

SEN. GARRETT P. MASON, CHAIR
SEN. RONALD F. COLLINS
SEN. MICHAEL E. CARPENTER

REP. LOUIS J. LUCHINI, CHAIR
REP. THOMAS R. W. LONGSTAFF
REP. JOHN C. SCHNECK
REP. KIMBERLY J. MONAGHAN
REP. CRAIG V. HICKMAN
REP. BRADLEE THOMAS FARRIN
REP. KATHLEEN R. J. DILLINGHAM
REP. SHELDON MARK HANINGTON
REP. DUSTIN MICHAEL WHITE
REP. OWEN D. CASÁS

STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 1211 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Political Action Committees

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B	ONTP OTP	

This bill prohibits a legislative candidate from establishing political action committees for which the candidate is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for fund-raising or decision making. The bill also makes a change to a provision under the Maine Clean Election Act, which includes the same prohibition, to clarify that the prohibition in that Act applies only to participating gubernatorial candidates and certified gubernatorial candidates.

LD 1231 Resolve, To Assess the Need for Mental Health Care Services for Veterans in Maine and To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Case Management Services to Veterans for Mental Health Care

**RESOLVE 24
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDEN J LIBBY N	OTP-AM ONTP	H-407 H-553 GOLDEN J

This bill directs the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to station at each of the bureau's field offices a social worker to provide direct mental health care to veterans, to coordinate mental health care for veterans and to work with the Federal Government and state and local mental health service providers to provide mental health care to veterans. It also requires the director to administer a program to provide grants to providers of mental health services to veterans and appropriates ongoing funds of \$1,000,000 annually for the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-407)

This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment establishes a program for the collection of data by hospitals regarding the number of veterans presenting to the hospitals' emergency departments for mental or behavioral health care. The data must be analyzed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to quantify the unmet need for mental health care services, particularly inpatient treatment, among veterans in the State and to identify gaps in mental health care services administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The amendment also establishes a two-year pilot program to provide contracted case management services to veterans in need of mental health care services. The amendment provides funding to mitigate the costs to hospitals for collecting and reporting data and to pay for the contracted case management services program.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-553)

This amendment expands the provisions in Committee Amendment "A" that establish a pilot program to provide mental health case management services to veterans. It also establishes the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund and changes the source of funding. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolves 2017, chapter 24 establishes a program for the collection of data by hospitals regarding the number of

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

veterans presenting to the hospitals' emergency departments for mental or behavioral health care. The data must be analyzed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to quantify the unmet need for mental health care services, particularly inpatient treatment, among veterans in the State and to identify gaps in mental health care services administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This law also establishes a two-year pilot program to provide contracted case management services to veterans and those serving in the Maine Army National Guard, the Maine Air National Guard and Reserves of the United States Armed Forces in need of mental health care services. Chapter 24 establishes the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund and provides funding to mitigate the costs to hospitals for collecting and reporting data and to pay for the contracted case management services program.

Resolves 2017, chapter 24 was finally passed as emergency measure effective August 2, 2017.

**LD 1232 An Act To Require the Secretary of State To Automatically Register
Nonregistered Persons Who Are Qualified To Vote through Records of
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles**

**Died Between
Houses**

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

This bill establishes a method of automatically registering eligible individuals to vote. The Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, when receiving any documentation from an individual doing business with the bureau, including applying for or renewing a driver's license or nondriver identification card, is required to scan and electronically store the documentation provided by the applicant. If the documentation provides proof of eligibility to vote, including citizenship, age and residency, that individual is added to the central voter registration system and relevant information is transmitted to election officials unless the individual, at the time of the collection of the documentation, chooses not to be registered to vote.

An application or document used to collect information that may be used to register an individual must contain a notice that the individual's information may be used to register that individual to vote, meaning that the information would be available by persons other than the State or election officials. An election official must provide the same notice to an individual upon receipt of the registration record from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and also must inform the individual of the ability to choose not to be registered to vote and to pick a party affiliation. If the individual fails to respond within 21 days, the individual is considered a registered voter.

The Secretary of State and the Governor are allowed to designate other state agencies and departments and public and private entities, such as colleges and municipal clerk offices, as so-called source agencies that are allowed to submit registration information to the bureau for inclusion in the central voter registration system, but only if those agencies, as part of their normal course of business, collect information that provides proof of eligibility to vote. Beginning in 2022, an entity that is designated under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 as a voter-registration agency that collects information that provides proof of voter eligibility is designated a source agency. A source agency is required to comply with the same restrictions regarding sharing and use of documentation as the bureau. Information from a source agency may also be used to update an individual's voter registration.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-267)

This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Secretary of State to study the implementation of automatic voter registration. The Secretary of State is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by March 1, 2018.