

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 1256 Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Implement Ranked-choice Voting ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CHAPMAN R | ONTP | |

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Implement Ranked-choice Voting. The task force is charged with making recommendations for rules and changes to the law to implement ranked-choice voting. The task force is required to submit a report containing its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by December 6, 2017. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out legislation concerning the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

LD 1271 An Act Regarding the Certification Process for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| KINNEY J DAVIS P | ONTP | |

This bill amends the laws regarding the notarization or certification of a petition for a people's veto referendum or a direct initiative of legislation by:

1. Requiring a petition organization when registering as a petition organization to list all notaries public and other persons authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations who notarize or certify petitions for the petition organization;
2. Requiring a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations to acquire a special seal and unique identifying number from the Secretary of State to notarize or certify a petition;
3. Prohibiting a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations who notarizes or certifies petitions for a petition organization from being paid by the hour or being employed in any other capacity by the petition organization;
4. Allowing the Secretary of State to disqualify a petition for being notarized or certified in violation of the notary requirements established by this bill and for a hearing and appeal process by a petition organization or a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations whose petition has been disqualified by the Secretary of State;
5. Making a violation of the notary requirements established by this bill a Class E crime; and
6. Requiring the Secretary of State to establish a publicly accessible website providing information for the public about reporting fraud or other violations of the petition process.

LD 1278 An Act To Amend the Military Bureau Laws and Veterans Service Laws PUBLIC 108

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| FARRIN B | OTP-AM | H-263 |

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

This bill allows the Adjutant General to provide to or accept military forces from other states in support of federally funded National Guard missions. It provides the Adjutant General the authority to appoint a provost marshal to oversee security at National Guard military facilities and certain real property. It allows the Military Bureau to rent its readiness centers and other real property in addition to armories and allows the Adjutant General to waive fees for certain rentals. It changes the description of a stepchild who is eligible to receive certain educational benefits. It prohibits a veteran service officer from knowingly presenting or prosecuting a fraudulent or frivolous claim.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-263)

This amendment corrects a cross-reference in the bill and makes nonsubstantive changes to the section of the bill regarding the provision of security at National Guard military facilities and real property of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 108 allows the Adjutant General to provide to or accept military forces from other states in support of federally funded National Guard missions. It provides the Adjutant General the authority to appoint a provost marshal to oversee security at National Guard military facilities and certain real property. It allows the Military Bureau to rent its readiness centers and other real property in addition to armories and allows the Adjutant General to waive fees for certain rentals. Chapter 108 changes the description of a stepchild who is eligible to receive certain educational benefits. Finally, it prohibits a veteran service officer from knowingly presenting or prosecuting a fraudulent or frivolous claim.

LD 1284 An Act To Require Election Transparency and Audits

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BELLOWS S HICKMAN C | ONTP | |

This bill requires the Secretary of State to:

1. Publish a guide to election procedures for public distribution and revise the guide annually to reflect current law, rules and procedures regarding elections;
2. Provide local election procedure and ballot reconciliation forms for local election officials to complete;
3. Develop an election complaint process;
4. Routinely monitor the central voter registration system;
5. Report to the Legislature on certain election issues within 12 months of a general election; and
6. Develop a pilot program for conducting a post-election audit.

LD 1293 An Act To Allow Wine Tastings at Farmers' Markets

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MIRAMANT D AUSTIN B | ONTP | |