

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 1383 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
Regarding Early Voting**

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DENNO D CARPENTER M	OTP-AM ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize a process to allow qualified voters to vote at polling places in or outside their election districts during the 15-day period immediately preceding an election or to vote by another method and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268)

This amendment, the majority report, changes the provision of the constitutional resolution allowing early voting to provide that the Legislature may authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early voting by allowing voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election. The amendment retains the provision of the resolution that allows absentee voting for any sufficient reason.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1384 An Act To Amend the Election Laws

PUBLIC 248

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	S-169

This bill makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It prohibits a voter from filing an application to change or withdraw party enrollment on the day of a primary election.
2. It clarifies that a municipality may not charge a rental fee or janitorial service fee to a municipal party committee for an available public building provided for the biennial municipal caucus.
3. It repeals the provision allowing a party to designate who can participate in the party's primary other than party members.
4. It removes the requirement for the state ballots to include a write-in space after the list of candidates for an office, unless there is a write-in candidate who has filed a declaration for that office.
5. It adds a requirement for a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths to keep a log for the purpose of recording information about the direct initiative or people's veto petitions on which the notary public has administered the circulator's oath and clarifies that the notary public must sign the circulator's oath immediately after the circulator has signed the petition in the notary's presence.
6. It corrects an omission in the districts for the Knox County budget committee.
7. It clarifies the types of licensed facilities at which municipal clerks are required to conduct absentee voting for the residents prior to an election.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

8. It moves the filing deadline for municipal nomination petitions from the 45th day to the 70th day prior to the election.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-169)

This amendment strikes the provisions of the bill that remove the requirement to print a space on state ballots for undeclared write-in candidates. It also strikes the provision in the bill that removes the option for a party to determine who may participate in the party's primary. The bill prohibits a voter from changing enrollment or withdrawing enrollment in a party on election day. The amendment provides that a voter may change or withdraw enrollment on election day, but the application to do so is not deemed received until the next business day. The amendment specifies that a municipality may charge a rental fee or janitorial service fee when the municipality provides space for a local caucus to meet. The amendment strikes a provision governing notarial acts related to petitions for a direct initiative of legislation and a people's veto referendum. Finally, the amendment provides that the deadline for filing municipal nomination papers is the 60th day prior to the election, rather than the 70th day prior to the election that is proposed in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 248 makes several changes to the laws governing elections. It provides that a voter may change or withdraw enrollment on election day, but the application to do so is not deemed received until the next business day. It specifies that a municipality may charge a rental fee or janitorial service fee when the municipality provides space for a local caucus to meet. Chapter 248 changes the deadline for filing municipal nomination papers from the 45th day prior to the election to the 60th day prior to the election. It corrects an omission in the districts for the Knox County budget committee. Finally, this law clarifies the types of licensed facilities at which municipal clerks are required to conduct absentee voting for the residents prior to an election.

LD 1397 An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act and Related Laws ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STETKIS J VOLK A	ONTP	

This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Clean Election Act and other related laws.

1. It changes references to the Maine Clean Election Act to the Maine Publicly Financed Election Act and removes specific references to the Maine Clean Election Fund.
2. It changes the tax revenue amounts required to be deposited in the fund by the State Controller from \$3,000,000 to \$2,000,000.
3. It limits participation in the Maine Publicly Financed Election Act to first-time candidates for Governor, State Senator or State Representative and provides that seed money for participating candidates running for State Senator or State Representative may come only from the participating candidate's district. It also revises seed money contribution limits for legislative candidates and eliminates the provision allowing participating candidates to collect additional qualifying contributions.
4. It changes funding distributions under the Maine Publicly Financed Election Act to require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to determine the funding amounts for legislative candidates at least every two years and sets a specific distribution for gubernatorial elections. It also eliminates supplemental fund distributions.
5. It removes a provision requiring that communications that are independent expenditures include a conspicuous