

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> 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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**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/>

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 1441     An Act To Create Veteran-friendly Workplaces**

**Veto Sustained**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLLINGS B CARSON B	OTP-AM ONTP	H-369

This bill establishes a program within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to encourage employers in the State to establish veteran-friendly workplaces. The bill provides criteria for certifying a workplace as a veteran-friendly workplace and requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to conduct regular trainings for employers who voluntarily decide to establish such a workplace. The bill also directs the Department of Labor to establish a manner for recognizing employers whose workplaces have been certified as veteran-friendly workplaces.

This bill also requires an employer to allow an employee who is a veteran to take paid leave to attend scheduled appointments at a medical facility operated by the United States Veterans Administration. The employee must make reasonable efforts to consult with the employer before scheduling such an appointment in order to accommodate, so far as is reasonable, the needs of the employer. The employer may require reasonable advance notice and verification from the veteran of such an appointment.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-369)**

This amendment, the majority report, replaces the bill, striking the provisions that require an employer to provide a veteran with paid leave for appointments at a medical facility operated by the United States Veterans Administration and that establish a program to recognize veteran-friendly workplaces. The amendment amends current law governing family sick leave by defining "veteran" and requiring an employer with fewer than 25 employees to allow a veteran to take unpaid leave for scheduled appointments at a medical facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs when the veteran provides two weeks' notice. Employers who provide sick leave and have 25 or more employees must provide the veteran with paid leave for those appointments.

**LD 1447     An Act To Recognize and Provide for the Right of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians To Operate a Casino on Houlton Band Trust Land Exempt from Certain Gaming Laws**

**Died Between Houses**

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

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to accept an application for a casino operator license from the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to operate 350 slot machines and 10 table games at a casino on Houlton Band Trust Land located on the North Road property of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in the Town of Houlton. A casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is not subject to a referendum. The bill raises the limit on the number of slot machines allowed in the State from 3,000 to 3,350 to accommodate the casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. A casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians would be subject to the oversight of the Gambling Control Board.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)**

This amendment, the minority report, provides that an application submitted to the Gambling Control Board within the Department of Public Safety by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to operate a casino must include an acknowledgment that the operation of the casino is subject to the oversight and enforcement of the Gambling Control Board. The amendment removes the provision in the bill that states a casino operated by the Houlton Band

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

of Maliseet Indians is not subject to any fees. The amendment provides that the casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is subject to the fees applied to casinos that were initially licensed before 2012 under current law except that the initial license fee is \$100,000 and the annual renewal fee is \$35,000. The amendment also makes a change to the distribution of table game revenue, which under the bill provides 2% of net revenue to all off-track betting facilities and to nonprofit organizations that conduct licensed charitable gaming. The amendment changes this distribution so that 1% of table game revenue supplements harness racing purses and 1% goes to veterans' organizations that have been continuously operating licensed charitable gaming for at least two years as of January 1, 2017.

**LD 1449 An Act To Support Maine Military Charities**

**PUBLIC 114**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE K MASON G	OTP-AM	H-264

This bill authorizes the Military Bureau to provide space in military facilities to nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to members or families of members of the Maine National Guard. Under the bill, space provided to a nonprofit organization by the Military Bureau may be used only to provide assistance to members or families of members of the Maine National Guard.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-264)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes a definition of state military welfare society and authorizes the Adjutant General to provide logistical and administrative support to state military welfare societies and similar societies established under federal law. The amendment also provides that the Adjutant General may authorize state military welfare societies to distribute financial assistance to state military forces and their families from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 114 establishes a definition of state military welfare society and authorizes the Adjutant General to provide logistical and administrative support to state military welfare societies and similar societies established under federal law. It also provides that the Adjutant General may authorize state military welfare societies to distribute financial assistance to state military forces and their families from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

**LD 1480 An Act To Improve the Disclosure of Major Contributors Influencing Maine Elections**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill amends the law governing campaign financing and reporting by:

1. Setting more specific criteria for the reporting of contributions by an organization that has received funds for multiple purposes and has formed a political action committee; and
2. Requiring an organization that has contributed more than \$100,000 to a political action committee, party committee or ballot question committee in this State to file a one-time report with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices disclosing information about the organization, its top five sources of funding and a