

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 1554 Resolve, Authorizing Claire Dean Perry and the Estate of William Dean
To Bring Suit against the Surety Obtained by the Department of Health
and Human Services in Its Capacity as Public Conservator** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEEBE-CENTER P	OTP-AM	H-365

This resolve authorizes Claire Dean Perry and the estate of William Dean to bring suit against the surety bond that was obtained by the Department of Health and Human Services in the department's capacity as public conservator or public guardian of William Dean and that was filed with the Probate Court pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 18-A, section 5-611. This resolve constitutes a waiver of the State's defense of sovereign immunity.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-365)

This amendment clarifies that the surety for the State may not assert the defense of immunity in any proceeding authorized by the resolve and filed with the Probate Court. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to the next special or regular session of the 128th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, S.P. 601.

LD 1560 An Act Regarding Veteran Homelessness **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART H DAVIS P	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to address veteran homelessness in this State in a comprehensive and collaborative manner by implementing strategies recommended in the "Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Veteran Homelessness" prepared by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

1. The bill would create a subcommittee of the Statewide Homeless Council, referred to in this bill as "the subcommittee," to share information among all organizations working to prevent and address veteran homelessness.
 - A. The subcommittee consists of the following members:
 - (1) The members of the Maine Homeless Veterans Action Committee;
 - (2) A representative of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, who is the chair;
 - (3) A representative of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, who is the vice-chair;
 - (4) A veteran who advocates on behalf of homeless veterans;
 - (5) The justice action coordinator from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
 - (6) A representative of a community action program;

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

(7) A representative of the Veterans Justice Outreach Program of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(8) A representative of the Maine Department of Labor;

(9) A representative of the Maine Apartment Owners and Managers Association;

(10) An employment specialist from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(11) A representative of Shelter Plus Care or the Bridging Rental Assistance Program at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services;

(12) A member of the Statewide Homeless Council; and

(13) Other representatives of organizations that provide services to homeless veterans.

B. The following are the duties of the subcommittee:

(1) Manage the list by name of homeless veterans through regular review and updating and conferencing to coordinate the deployment of resources;

(2) Add the name of a homeless veteran to the list at the request of an agency or concerned citizen;

(3) Provide training on best referral practices to other agencies and organizations; and

(4) Report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans matters.

2. The bill would encourage the execution of memoranda of understanding between state agencies that provide services to veterans, including the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor, to foster the improvement of communication between these agencies and the improvement of the sharing of data among providers of services to veterans.

3. The bill would provide funding for the establishment of an Assistant Coordinator of Homeless Veterans Services in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services. This position:

A. Reports to, staffs and coordinates the activities of the subcommittee;

B. Works with agencies and organizations to coordinate service delivery, data collection and data analysis and reporting; and

C. Administers the Landlord Assistance Fund, to be established in the bill.

4. The bill would provide funding for enhancements to technology, including the development of uniform reporting standards and improved data collection.

5. The bill would provide grants for a statewide system of veteran homelessness prevention. Grants must be approved by the subcommittee and administered by the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

6. The bill would provide training on best practices for referring a homeless veteran to law enforcement, hospital staff or helpline staff accessed by dialing 2-1-1. The subcommittee would administer this training.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

7. The bill would add capacity to the 2-1-1 system to help homeless veterans and encourage people to use the 2-1-1 system to report a veteran in distress.
8. The bill would seek to find long-term solutions to reduce barriers to veterans securing housing, including, but not limited to, substance abuse, mental illness, felony charges, lack of a driver's license, physical disability, lack of case management and unemployment.
9. The bill would increase the number of permanent supportive housing units.
10. The bill would require the subcommittee to establish a pilot project to determine best practices for a coordinated system of entry using a standard assessment process by all providers in order to provide a consistent level of services to homeless veterans regardless of which provider first serves a veteran.
11. The bill would establish a percentage of Section 8 vouchers for which homeless veterans will be given preference.
12. The bill would provide funding to assist landlords to improve substandard apartments to provide housing for homeless veterans.
13. The bill would provide for an annual address on the state of homelessness to be given to the Legislature by the Statewide Homeless Council.

LD 1561 An Act To Enact the Maine Citizens' Initiatives Clean Election Act

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

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

This bill establishes the Maine Citizens' Initiatives Clean Election Act. It provides a public financing mechanism for committees that are Maine-chartered nonprofits or groups whose principal officers are Maine citizens and are formed to support or oppose a citizens' initiative ballot question or a people's veto or to support a competing measure to a citizens' initiative ballot question. The funding process is similar to that provided for clean election candidates under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, chapter 14. It provides for limits on the amount of funds that committees seeking public funding may raise and spend prior to qualifying for public funding and the amount of qualifying contributions that a committee must raise to be certified to receive public funding, and it establishes the amounts that certified committees may receive. It also establishes procedures governing financial reporting and accounting, appeals of decisions, penalties for violations and other procedural matters to ensure the integrity of the process. In addition to other available funds, including qualifying contributions raised by committees and voluntary contributions through a tax checkoff program, funding for certified committees is provided by an annual appropriation of \$3,000,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-438)

This amendment, which is the minority report, provides allocations to finance certified committees and to pay administrative and enforcement costs of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

This amendment was not adopted.