

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**

August 2017

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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 1624 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Implement Ranked-choice Voting** **Final Passage
Failed**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BREEN C PIERCE T	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	S-300

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require candidates for the political offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative to be elected by a majority of the votes cast for that office.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-300)

This amendment replaces the resolution and proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to authorize the Legislature, or the electors through the direct initiative process, to enact legislation for the determination of the winners of elections for the offices of State Senator, State Representative and Governor by popular vote.

LD 1625 An Act To Repeal the Ranked-choice Voting Law **Died Between
Houses**

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

This bill repeals provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes establishing ranked-choice voting enacted by the voters with Initiated Bill 2015, chapter 3.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-303)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment does not affect the use of the ranked-choice voting method for the primary nomination elections to the office of the Governor and to the Legislature. The amendment requires the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution of Maine that approves the use of the ranked-choice voting method for those offices before that method may be used.

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to adopt routine technical rules for the administration of ranked-choice voting, including the administration of recounts.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was not adopted.

Committee Amendment "C" (S-304)

This amendment replaces the bill. It amends the laws governing ranked-choice voting to exclude the election of Governor, State Senator and State Representative. The ranked-choice voting method would still be applied to primary nomination elections for these offices. The amendment delays the implementation of ranked-choice voting for applicable offices until elections held after December 1, 2019. The amendment requires the Secretary of State to submit a report on the implementation of ranked-choice voting to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters no later than January 1, 2019.

