

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<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**

August 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 129<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 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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*

This bill raises the betting limit for games of chance from \$1 to \$5. It also allows a bona fide nonprofit organization to operate a licensed card game or registered game of chance to which the general public has access for four consecutive days instead of four days and removes the current three-month waiting period between game operations.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-162)**

This amendment provides that the maximum bet for a licensed card game in which bets are placed per hand or per deal is \$5, inclusive of any raises made during the hand or deal. The amendment also provides that a bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a licensed card game or registered game of chance to which the general public has access for four consecutive days no more than four times in a calendar year. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 117 increases the maximum bet for a licensed game of chance from \$1 to \$5 and specifies that when the game of chance is a card game in which bets are placed per hand or per deal, the \$5 bet limit includes any raises made during the hand or deal. It also provides that a bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a licensed card game or registered game of chance to which the general public has access for four consecutive days no more than four times in a calendar year, eliminating the current three-month waiting period between such game operations.

Public Law 2019, chapter 117 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 16, 2019.

**LD 1187**

### **An Act To Apply the Same Auditing Standards to All Legislative Candidates**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RISEMAN W CHENETTE J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-313

This bill directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to conduct random audits of political action committees that are required to file campaign finance reports with the commission and candidates for state office, including candidates for Governor, State Senator, State Representative and presidential elector. The bill directs the commission to adopt rules to implement this requirement. The rules must direct the commission to audit an equal percentage of candidates for state office who are certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates, candidates for state office who are not certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates and political action committees. The rules must also establish standard auditing requirements to be applied to each candidate and political action committee.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-313)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill and title. Under current practice, the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices uses funding from the Maine Clean Election Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1124 to contract with independent auditors to conduct random post-election audits of 20% of the legislative candidates who are certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates. The amendment provides an ongoing General Fund appropriation to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to contract with independent auditors to conduct random post-election audits of 20% of legislative candidates who are not certified as Maine Clean Election Act candidates.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.