

# 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**

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# STATE OF MAINE

129<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 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*

individual's change of name or address, if any. An individual who is not qualified to be a registered voter but who becomes a registered voter by operation of the automatic registration is exempted from liability as long as that individual has not knowingly or willfully provided false information.

The Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles is automatically designated a "source agency" through which automatic voter registration takes place. The Secretary of State may designate another state agency or department or another entity designated by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 as a source agency, as long as the Secretary of State verifies that the department, agency or entity collects documents that provide proof of voter eligibility as part of its normal course of business.

Public Law 2019, chapter 409 also requires the Secretary of State to audit the central voter registration system for quality of data prior to implementation of automatic voter registration and periodically thereafter and to adopt routine technical rules to implement the new automatic voter registration system. The Secretary of State is further required to submit, by January 1, 2020, a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on the progress made toward implementing automatic voter registration and the estimated time required to complete all activities necessary for implementation. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature based on the report.

Finally, effective January 1, 2020, Public Law 2019, chapter 409 lowers from 17 years of age to 16 years of age the age at which a person may submit a conditional registration to vote and to enroll in a political party.

**LD 1477      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine      CARRIED OVER**  
**To Facilitate the Use of Ranked-choice Voting for Governor and**  
**Members of the Legislature**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COOPER J MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM ONTP	H-236

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature, or the people by using the direct initiative, to determine whether a general election for the Governor, a State Senator or a State Representative should be decided by a plurality or a majority of the votes.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-236)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, allows the Legislature, or the people using the direct initiative, to establish the method for determining the winners of general elections for Governor, State Senators and State Representatives. The amendment also clarifies that, after local officials form records of the votes received in a general election for Representatives, Senators and Governor, the ballots may be forwarded to the Secretary of State at the direction of the Secretary of State, rather than to the Governor as in the resolution.

This resolution 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.

**LD 1493      An Act To Exempt Cribbage and Other Card Games from Licensing      ONTP**  
**and Regulation When Conducted by Certain Organizations**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN H	ONTP	

*Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

This bill amends the laws regarding games of chance conducted and regulated pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17, chapter 62, including the following.

1. It provides a definition of "bona fide charitable organization" to include entities such as fire departments and political, recreational and patriotic organizations, as long as those entities have tax-exempt status under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, are licensed as charitable organizations under the Charitable Solicitations Act and are corporations in good standing with the Secretary of State.
2. It provides a definition of "game of chance and skill" for the purpose of distinguishing a game that requires the skillful exercise of judgment to influence the outcome of a game from a game of chance, which is a game in which chance influences the outcome in a manner that cannot be eliminated through the application of skill.
3. It provides that a game of chance and skill that is conducted by a bona fide charitable organization is exempt from licensing and other regulation.
4. It provides that a game of chance and skill that is conducted by a person that is not a bona fide charitable organization is treated in the same manner, for purposes of regulation and licensing, as a game of chance.
5. It removes the cap on the maximum number of players allowed in tournament games and requires prizes to be paid by check.
6. It removes the specific regulation of cribbage tournaments and the exceptions for cribbage tournaments, since they will either not be regulated if conducted by a bona fide charitable organization or will be subject to the same regulation as other tournament games if conducted by an organization that is not a bona fide charitable organization.
7. It removes the requirement that the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit adopt rules that regulate undesirable activities and conduct of organizations established primarily to operate games but that do not have a bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or public safety purpose.

**LD 1495      Resolve, Regarding the Revision of Title 28-A of the Maine Revised Statutes**

**RESOLVE 15**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>

This resolve, which was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2019, Senate Paper 381, does the following.

1. It repeals Resolve 2017, chapter 18, which directed legislative staff to prepare a recodification and revision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A and to submit it to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs no later than January 15, 2019.
2. It directs the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis to prepare an analysis regarding inconsistencies, duplications and ambiguities contained within the text of Title 28-A and, on or before January 1, 2020, to submit that analysis to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.
3. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature proposing revisions to Title 28-A in response to the analysis submitted by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.