

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 16 An Act To Change the Renewal Application Deadline from 6 Months to 60 Days before the Expiration of a License Issued by the Gambling Control Board

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 22 makes the following changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, chapter 31, which governs the licensure and regulation of slot machine facilities, casinos and advance deposit wagering by the Gambling Control Board.

1. It changes the deadline for submitting a license-renewal application from six months to 60 days prior to the expiration of the current license.
2. It clarifies that a licensed slot machine operator or casino operator must first seek local approval for renewal of the license before submitting a license-renewal application to the board.
3. It corrects an inconsistency in the law by clarifying that licenses to conduct advance deposit wagering are effective for five years.

LD 102 An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 11 authorizes the processing of absentee ballots beginning on the seventh day immediately prior to election day rather than beginning on the fourth day immediately prior to election day as in current law. It further provides that, if a municipal clerk intends to process absentee ballots prior to election day, the municipal clerk must send a notice of early processing to the Secretary of State and to the chair of each political party 30 days before election day rather than 60 days before election day as in current law.

LD 139 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapters 33 to 43, Concerning the Regulation of Fantasy Contests, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 7 authorizes final adoption of the following major substantive rules of the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit, which govern the operation of fantasy contests in the State, only if the rules are amended to clarify whether a licensed fantasy contest operator's gross fantasy contest revenues will be calculated on a calendar-year basis or over the 12-month term of the license and only if a number of other specified technical changes to the rules are made prior to adoption: Chapter 33, Introduction; Chapter 34, Definitions; Chapter 35, License Application; Chapter 36, License Fee and Renewal; Chapter 37, Fantasy Contest Monitoring;

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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Chapter 38, Fantasy Contest Account Activity; Chapter 39, Registration of Fantasy Contestants; Chapter 40, Fantasy Contestant Funds and Required Reserves; Chapter 41, Licensee Records, Annual Reporting and Audits; Chapter 42, Collection of Payments; and Chapter 43, Complaints and Disciplinary Actions.

Resolve 2021, chapter 7 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 7, 2021.

LD 173 An Act To Restore Honor to Certain Service Members

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 37 requires the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish a process for a veteran who separated from service without an honorable discharge due solely to the veteran's sexual orientation or gender identity or to statements, consensual sexual conduct or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation or gender identity to have that discharge treated as an honorable discharge for purposes of determining the veteran's eligibility for rights, privileges and benefits under state law.

Public Law 2021, chapter 37 further requires the director to explore whether other states have established processes for reviewing and potentially upgrading the discharge status, for state law purposes, of veterans who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury or who have been diagnosed with psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service as described in 38 United States Code, Section 1720D and who separated from service without an honorable discharge. The director is required to report, no later than January 15, 2022, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on both the potential for implementing such a process in the State and the resources that would be required to implement the process. The committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the director's report.

LD 205 An Act To Extend the Ability of Restaurants and Bars To Serve Alcohol To Go

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 3 temporarily permits, until September 10, 2022, a licensed on-premise retailer of spirits, wine or malt liquor to sell the type or types of liquor that it is authorized to sell for on-premises consumption to customers for off-premises consumption if the liquor is accompanied by a food order that consists of a hot or cold meal. A licensed on-premises retailer may sell malt liquor for off-premises consumption only in an original container, may sell spirits for off-premises consumption only as an ingredient of an approved cocktail and may sell wine for off-premises consumption either in an original container or as an ingredient in an approved cocktail. An approved cocktail must be prepared on the day of sale by the licensee's employee, may contain no more than four-and-one-half ounces of spirits and must be sealed in an approved,