

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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effects of implementing a statewide electronic portal on caregiver businesses of all sizes and how such rules could affect the access of patients to marijuana for medical use.

The department must submit a report including the processes developed and the findings evaluated to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over medical use of marijuana matters no later than January 15, 2022. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over medical use of marijuana matters is authorized to introduce legislation for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the information provided in the report.

4. It eliminates the requirement that a registered caregiver, a registered dispensary, a marijuana testing facility and a manufacturing facility complete an annual audit conducted by a third party of business transactions.

Public Law 2021, chapter 387 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 1, 2021.

LD 1272 An Act To Eliminate Limits on the Number of Taste-testing Events for Beer, Wine and Spirits

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 131 removes the limitation on the number of taste-testing events that licensed off-premises retailers of spirits, wine or malt liquor may conduct each month.

LD 1363 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Elections

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 273 makes the following changes to the laws governing elections.

1. It repeals and replaces the definition of “elections determined by ranked-choice voting” to remove a conflict in the law created by the enactment of Public Law 2019, chapter 320, section 1 and Public Law 2019, chapter 539, sections 1 and 2.
2. It implements Constitutional Resolution 2019, chapter 1 by allowing a voter who has an alternative registration signature statement on file with the municipal registrar to authorize another registered Maine voter to sign a petition for a citizen’s initiative or for a people’s veto referendum on the voter’s behalf.
3. It amends the laws governing automatic voter registration to clarify that the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles must record but need not scan documentation providing proof of voter eligibility when creating a pending voter registration record and to authorize the bureau to create pending voter registration records for individuals who appear at

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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the bureau not only to apply for driver's licenses or nondriver identification cards but also to renew or update driver's licenses or nondriver identification cards. It also delays from January 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022 the date upon which the bureau is required to commence automatic voter registration.

4. It reduces the maximum number of petition signatures that party and nonparty candidates for certain offices may submit to qualify for inclusion on the ballot.
5. It changes to October 1st of the year before the presidential election the deadline for a qualified party to notify the Secretary of State both whether there is a contest for nomination as the party's presidential candidate and whether unenrolled voters may vote in the party's presidential primary election. It also changes to October 1st the date by which the Secretary of State must make candidate petitions available for the presidential primary and sets November 20th as the deadline for candidates to file those petitions with the municipal registrar for signature verification and December 1st as the deadline to file verified petitions with the Secretary of State.
6. It provides that a person who is 16 years of age and who is conditionally registered to vote is qualified to serve as an election clerk.
7. It authorizes the Secretary of State to deviate from the statutorily prescribed order of offices on the ballot to allow ranked-choice contests to be printed on a separate side of the ballot from contests that are not ranked-choice contests.
8. Regarding the ranked-choice voting tabulation of presidential primary elections, it prohibits the use of batch elimination for candidates who receive more than 100 votes and requires separate tabulations to be conducted statewide and for each congressional district.
9. It authorizes municipalities to obtain and install secured drop boxes for the return of absentee ballots and specifies the requirements related to drop box security, design, monitoring, labeling and retrieval of absentee ballots by election officials.
10. It clarifies that a voter submitting a written request for an absentee ballot must include with the other statutorily required information the voter's date of birth and specifies the information that must be included when a voter submits an electronic request for an absentee ballot.
11. It specifies that, in addition to any required information, a voter who applies for an absentee ballot in writing, by telephone or by electronic means must be asked to provide that voter's telephone number and e-mail address, if available. This information, if provided, is confidential and may be used only by municipal election officials.
12. It clarifies that a municipal clerk must, upon receipt of an accepted absentee ballot application, immediately issue an absentee ballot and return envelope as soon as official ballots become available.

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13. It prohibits a municipal clerk from issuing to a candidate any absentee ballot other than the candidate's own absentee ballot.
14. It establishes a procedure for the municipal clerk to follow, if an absentee voter provided a telephone number or e-mail address with the voter's absentee ballot application, to assist that absentee voter in curing a defect in the voter's signature, the affidavit or the witness certification on the absentee ballot return envelope.
15. It requires a municipal clerk to verify the voter's residence address and year of birth before issuing an absentee ballot and return envelope to a voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk.
16. It requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain an online service that allows an absentee voter to track the status of the absentee ballot process.
17. It provides that the Governor must report the number of votes that each candidate for president received in the final round of ranked-choice voting tabulation both statewide and for each congressional district when certifying the results of the general election for United States President in the State.

LD 1377 An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure and the Filing of Statements of Sources of Income

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 132 amends the laws governing disclosure of sources of personal income and the reporting of campaign finance information by:

1. Adjusting the deadline for non-incumbent legislative candidates to file statements of their sources of personal income from the first Monday in August to August 15th of the general election year;
2. Eliminating the requirement that constitutional officers and appointed or major-policy influencing executive officials annually file a statement of interests that discloses their positions in corporations or on boards of directors but retaining the requirement that these positions be reported on the officers' and officials' annual statements of their sources of personal income;
3. Requiring state party committees to provide a list of the officers of district, municipal and county party committees to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices by June 15th of each year;
4. Adding clarity to the definition of "independent expenditure" in the campaign finance laws by including within the definition, rather than in an exception to the definition, that an independent