

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> 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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\*Committee member for a portion of the session

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2. Defining “ballot question committee” to mean a person, including an individual, that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating or influencing a ballot question campaign;
3. Defining “exempt donor” to mean a person that has not received contributions for the purpose of influencing a campaign in the prior two years and whose only payments of money to influence a campaign in the prior two years are monetary contributions to or payments for goods or services with an aggregate value of no more than \$100,000 for candidates, party committees, political action committees or ballot question committees. Exempt donors are not political action committees or ballot question committees;
4. Like Public Law 2021, chapter 274, defining a “leadership political action committee” as a political action committee, other than a caucus political action committee, that was directly or indirectly established by a current member of the Legislature or that is directly or indirectly maintained or controlled by a current member of the Legislature;
5. Clarifying that a “contribution” to a political action committee or a ballot question committee includes a donation of something of value only if the donation was made for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign;
6. Exempting from the definition of “expenditure” any payments for the purpose of initiating a citizen’s initiative or a people’s veto referendum that are made prior to the submission of an application to the Secretary of State to initiate the petition and signature-gathering process;
7. Requiring that each political action committee and ballot question committee establish a campaign account in a bank or other financial institution that is segregated from the funds of the person or persons that established the committee and amending the applicable definitions of “contribution” and “expenditure” to include, respectively, all funds deposited into and all payments made from this campaign account; and
8. Unifying the registration, financial reporting and record-keeping requirements for political action committees and ballot question committees and clarifying the circumstances under which a committee need not cross-register as both a political action committee and a ballot question committee.

### **LD 1575 An Act To Improve Maine’s Election Laws**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 246 makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It allows an individual who is registering to vote to verify the individual’s identity with a student photograph identification document that is issued by a state-approved public or private

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school located in Maine or that is issued by a duly authorized institution of higher learning that operates in Maine.

2. It directs the Secretary of State to prepare instructions for absentee voter applicants describing the reasons that a voter may request and receive an absentee ballot after the period for no-excuse absentee voting has ended and requires municipalities to include these instructions on a sign posted at the municipal office and on any website, social media page or other media that the municipality uses to communicate election information.
3. It requires the municipal clerk to include in the voting place report, which is filed with the Secretary of State at least 60 days before each election, the location of each secured drop box and the times for in-person absentee voting in the municipality.
4. It authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing pollwatchers, additional party workers and others present in the polling place as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 627, subsection 4.
5. It clarifies that absentee ballots may not be counted until after the polls have closed on election day, all election day ballots have been cast and all absentee ballots have been processed.

### **LD 1589 An Act To Ensure Equity in the Membership of the Marijuana Advisory Commission**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 363 changes the membership of the Marijuana Advisory Commission established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-B, section 901 by removing the Commissioner of Labor, adding the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and adding six members representing certain interests, to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, increasing the number of members from 15 to 21.

### **LD 1620 An Act To Support Maine Theaters by Expanding Eligibility for Off-premises Catering Licenses**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 76 authorizes auditoriums, civic auditoriums and performing arts centers licensed to sell spirits, wine and malt liquor to apply for an additional license to conduct off-premises catering of spirits, wine and malt liquor at planned events or gatherings.

Public Law 2021, chapter 76 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 25, 2021.