

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

May 2026

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Public Law 2025, chapter 514 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 514 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 2000 An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws

Public Law 2025, chapter 600 amends campaign finance laws as follows.

1. It increases the threshold amounts for financial transactions that require candidates, political action committees, ballot question committees and party committees to file 24-hour reports during the last 13 days before an election.
2. It extends the deadline for 24-hour reports for candidates so that the reports are due within 48 hours of the contribution or expenditure.
3. It increases the threshold amount that requires an independent expenditure report from spending in excess of \$250 to advocate for or against a candidate to spending in excess of \$1,000 per candidate.
4. It adds a section that clarifies what party committees must disclose in their campaign finance reports, including for each expenditure: the candidate or ballot measure; for a candidate, the office sought and the candidate's district; the date and amount of each expenditure; the purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was in support of or opposition to the candidate or ballot measure; and the name and address of each payee.
5. It adds party committees to the list of entities that are not included in the definition of "ballot question committee."
6. It adds a section extending the qualifying period for State Senate or State House of Representatives participating candidates who file with the commission a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate after January 15, 2026, to 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 600 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.

LD 2007 An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games

Public Law 2025, chapter 645 clarifies that operating or promoting an online sweepstakes game constitutes "unlawful gambling" within the meaning of the Maine Criminal Code and establishes additional civil penalties related to that unlawful conduct.

Public Law 2025, chapter 645 impacts online games or contests that use a dual-currency system of payment and that simulate casino-style gaming, including, but not limited to, slot machines,

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poker and other table games, lottery games, bingo or sports wagering. “Dual-currency system of payment” refers to the practice of using more than one system of coins or tokens to facilitate game play and is further defined in the law.

The law also provides that a person that operates or promotes an online sweepstakes game is subject to a fine of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000. It requires that all fines collected be distributed to the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund.

If a person is found to operate or promote an online sweepstakes game and that person holds a license with the Gambling Control Unit or Gambling Control Board within the Department of Public Safety to operate certain gambling activities, the licensing entity must revoke that license. A person that violates the online sweepstakes games prohibition is also ineligible to receive one of the licenses specified by law.

LD 2080 An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering and Internet Gaming

Public Law 2025, chapter 628 prohibits an operator and a management services licensee conducting either sports wagering or Internet gaming on behalf of an operator from accepting wagers from a person using a credit card. The law also provides that, when adopting rules for the method of operation of sports wagering and Internet gaming and for the minimum design and security requirements for sports wagering and Internet gaming, the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety must ensure that a person does not use a credit card to make a wager.

LD 2095 An Act to Prohibit Bulk Purchasing of Tickets in Certain Lottery Games

Public Law 2025, chapter 605 prohibits a person or group of persons working together from making bulk purchases of lottery tickets or shares. It provides that the term “bulk purchase” means the purchase, in aggregate, of tickets or shares in a lottery game in an amount exceeding \$25,000. Public Law 2025, chapter 605 provides that the State Liquor and Lottery Commission may refuse payment of a prize for a winning ticket or share that was purchased as part of a bulk purchase. It requires the commission to adopt rules related to bulk purchasing. The law also authorizes the Director of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to suspend or revoke a person’s license to sell lottery tickets if the person knowingly sells tickets or shares to a person attempting to make a bulk purchase. These provisions do not apply to the Tri-state Lotto Compact.

Public Law 2025, chapter 605 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.