STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

August 2015

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LD 15 **An Act To Increase Transparency in Campaign Funding in Legislative Elections** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRAKEY TURNER	ONTP	

This bill requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide campaign finance information for legislative elections on a publicly accessible website, including all contributions and independent expenditures used to support or oppose a candidate, sorted by candidate and district.

LD 33 **An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act, Improve Disclosure and Make Other Changes to the Campaign Finance Laws** **INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RUSSELL		

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing campaign finance reporting and disclosure and the Maine Clean Election Act.

1. It authorizes the establishment of gubernatorial transition committees for the purpose of raising money to finance a Governor-elect's inauguration and transition into office and establishes requirements regarding disclosure and acceptance of donations from persons involved in lobbying.

2. It amends the Maine Clean Election Act by adding a system of optional supplemental funding for participating Maine Clean Election Act candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions.

3. It establishes new baseline initial distribution amounts for Maine Clean Election Act candidates.

4. It authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to impose enhanced penalties for campaign finance violations occurring shortly before election day.

5. It increases the baseline penalties for failure to file required reports.

6. It increases the maximum penalties for certain campaign finance violations.

7. It requires communications that are independent expenditures to include a conspicuous statement listing the top three funders of the entity making the independent expenditure.

8. It increases the amount of the annual transfer to the Maine Clean Election Fund from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000.

9. It requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to report annually on the Maine Clean Election Fund's projected needs, including an operating margin of 20%.

10. It repeals the seed money requirement for gubernatorial candidates.

11. It adjusts the number of qualifying contributions required for initial certification of gubernatorial candidates from 3,250 to 3,200 to correspond to the increments established for supplemental funds distributions.

12. It doubles the seed money cap for legislative candidates.

13. It provides rule-making authority for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices regarding several of the statutory changes.

14. It directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters to report out legislation to eliminate corporate tax expenditures totaling $6,000,000 per biennium, prioritizing low-performing tax expenditures.

This bill was not referred to a committee.

LD 53 **An Act To Require Shareholder Consent for Corporate Political Contributions** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RYKERSON	ONTP	
GRATWICK	OTP	

This bill requires a majority vote of a corporation's shareholders before the corporation makes a political contribution or expenditure and requires that once the contribution or expenditure has been made, the corporation posts notice of the contribution or expenditure on its website. The bill disallows a corporation that has over half of its shares owned by one or more institutional investors who cannot hold public office, such as a pension fund or a for-profit or nonprofit corporation, from making any political contributions or expenditures. The bill also allows a shareholder who disagrees with a corporation's political contribution or expenditure to receive from the corporation upon request a rebate of a percentage of the political contribution or expenditure equal to the percentage of ownership the shareholder has in the corporation.

LD 74 **Resolve, To Require the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services To Make Recommendations To Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members** **RESOLVE 19**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HANINGTON	OTP-AM	H-168

This resolve establishes the Task Force to Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members in the State. The task force is directed to study and find out if there is equity in the establishment, provision and application of the benefits and if the benefits are known to those eligible to receive them. The benefits include, but are not limited to, property tax exemptions, free automobile registration, automobile sales tax exemption, complimentary and reduced-rate licenses to hunt, trap and fish and day use passes to state parks and historic sites. The task force is also directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, and the joint standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature based on that report.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)

This amendment replaces the resolve. It requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs regarding streamlining the criteria for the delivery and administration of state-established services and benefits to veterans and military service members in the State. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature regarding the recommendations.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 19 requires the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to provide recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs regarding streamlining the criteria for the delivery and administration of state-established services and benefits to veterans and military service members in the State. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature regarding the recommendations.

LD 102 **An Act To Strengthen the Craft Beer Industry** **PUBLIC 15**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ALFOND SCHNECK	OTP-AM	S-8

Current law allows a person licensed to manufacture malt liquor to host one tenant brewer at that person's manufacturing facility. This bill amends that law to allow for up to nine tenant brewers per host at a manufacturing facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-8)

This amendment clarifies that the limit on the number of tenant brewers is nine tenant brewers per host brewer facility at any one time.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 15 allows a person licensed to manufacture malt liquor to host up to nine tenant brewers at that person's manufacturing facility.

LD 104 **An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Veterans' Organizations** **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PATRICK SAUCIER		

This bill permits the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, beginning January 1, 2016, to issue a license to a charitable nonprofit organization that is a veterans' organization that is tax-exempt under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to operate up to three slot machines on premises that have been owned, rented or leased by the organization for at least two consecutive years, that serve as its primary administrative operations headquarters and that are located in a municipality that has, by referendum of the voters, approved the operation of slot machines in that municipality. The charitable nonprofit veterans' organization must be able to demonstrate that it has a cash reserve of $1,000 for each machine the organization intends to operate.

A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that wishes to apply prior to January 1, 2016 may file a declaration of intent to apply with the Gambling Control Board. An application must include a refundable $2,500 deposit. The initial application fee for a slot machine operator license is $500, and the annual renewal fee is $175.

A slot machine operated by a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is subject to the same central site monitoring that applies to casinos and slot machine facilities at harness racing tracks. The total number of slot machines allowed to be operated by charitable nonprofit veterans' organizations statewide between January 1, 2016

and December 31, 2016 is 80; beginning January 1, 2017 the number increases to 150.

The bill provides that 10% of the net slot machine income from a charitable nonprofit veterans' organization is required to be deposited directly with the Gambling Control Board for administrative expenses; 8% goes directly to the General Fund; 10% goes to the host municipality; and 2% is dedicated to gambling addiction prevention and treatment. A charitable nonprofit veterans' organization that is licensed to operate slot machines is required to establish a separate account, from which the board may withdraw funds to distribute the net revenue percentages. The remaining revenue generated from the slot machines must be used to support the charitable purposes of the veterans' organization.

LD 122 **An Act To Standardize Pints of Beer Sold in Maine** **Veto Sustained**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PATRICK GOODE	OTP-AM ONTP	S-7

This bill requires that if an on-premises retail liquor licensee sells or offers for sale a pint of malt liquor, the container it comes in must have a capacity of at least 16 fluid ounces.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-7)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, makes a technical change to the bill by placing it in the section of statute that applies to on-premises licensees specifically. It also clarifies that the requirement to have a container that holds 16 fluid ounces applies when the licensee represents in written form to patrons that the licensee sells malt liquor by the pint.

LD 145 **An Act To Amend the Verification and Certification Process for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RUSSELL PATRICK	ONTP	

This bill removes the duty of verifying and certifying petitions in direct initiatives of legislation and people's veto referenda from municipal clerks and registrars and instead requires the Secretary of State to verify and certify all petitions. The Secretary of State is also required to send a random sampling of 10% of the petitions back to the municipalities to review for accuracy for audit purposes. The bill also creates three positions in the Secretary of State's office to assist in the verification and certification process for petitions in direct initiatives and people's veto referenda.

LD 174 **An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act Regarding Candidate Participation in Political Action Committees** **PUBLIC 116**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PARRY VALENTINO	OTP-AM	H-147

This bill prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate from establishing or participating in the activities of a political action committee for which the candidate is a principal officer, fund-raiser or decision maker. This prohibition also applies to the 12 months preceding certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-147)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, as part of the terms of participation in the act, from establishing a political action committee for which the candidate is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for fund-raising or decision making. This prohibition applies beginning with the election cycle beginning in 2016. For the purpose of this prohibition, an election cycle begins on April 1st immediately preceding the general election and ends on January 1st immediately preceding the next general election.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 116 prohibits a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, as part of the terms of participation in the act, from establishing a political action committee for which the candidate is a treasurer or principal officer or for which the candidate is primarily responsible for fund-raising or decision making. This prohibition applies beginning with the election cycle beginning in 2016. For the purpose of this prohibition, an election cycle begins on April 1st immediately preceding the general election and ends on January 1st immediately preceding the next general election.

LD 175 **An Act To Limit Maine Clean Election Act Funding to First-time Candidates** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SIROCKI COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill limits participating candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act to first-time candidates for Governor, State Senator or State Representative.

LD 176 **An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda** **PUBLIC 99**
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SHORT CUSHING	OTP-AM	H-98

This bill prohibits persons who are not residents of the State from collecting signatures on a petition for the direct initiative of legislation or a people's veto referendum and from handling such a petition in any manner. The bill permits persons who are not residents to provide others with information about a petition. The bill requires a person employed by a petition organization to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and to disclose to the commission information regarding the person's place of residence, employment history, compensation, number of signatures gathered in a month and petitions circulated and to wear an identification badge when collecting signatures. The bill requires a petition organization to post a $2,000 bond on a circulator receiving over $2,500 in compensation. The bill makes a violation of any of these provisions a Class E crime.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-98)

This amendment replaces the bill, which imposes limitations and residency restrictions on circulators of petitions. The amendment clarifies the law regarding the solicitation of signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto referendum. It also requires a petition organization that receives compensation for working on a signature-gathering effort to submit to the Secretary of State as part of the organization's registration process a list containing the names of those hired by the organization, which must be updated when the petitions are ultimately filed with the Secretary of State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 99 clarifies the law regarding the solicitation of signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto referendum. It also requires a petition organization that receives compensation for working on a signature-gathering effort to submit to the Secretary of State as part of the organization's registration process a list containing the names of those hired by the organization, which must be updated when the petitions are ultimately filed with the Secretary of State.

Public Law 2015, chapter 99 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 24, 2015.

LD 184 **An Act To Reimburse Philip Wolley for Litigation Expenses Incurred in Connection with His Termination and Reinstatement as a State Employee** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GILLWAY	ONTP	

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of $28,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 to reimburse Philip Wolley for litigation expenses incurred in connection with his termination and subsequent reinstatement as a state employee.

LD 189 **An Act To Prohibit Undisclosed Political Spending** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SAVIELLO	ONTP	

This bill requires nonprofit entities to disclose their donors from the previous two calendar years when making a contribution to a registered Maine party committee, registered Maine political action committee or out-of-state political action committee making expenditures to influence an election in Maine.

LD 197 **An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting** **Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
COLLINS PARRY	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires that a voter provide proof of identity with photographic identification for the purpose of voting. The bill specifies the types of photographic identification that may be used to verify the identity of a voter. It provides that a person who does not present photographic identification may cast a provisional ballot and establishes the process for provisional voting. Under this process, if the person can verify the person's identity to the warden or an election clerk within three business days of the election by presenting acceptable photographic identification, the ballot will be cast as a regular ballot. Through the general election of 2016, a person who does not present acceptable photographic identification but is known to a municipal clerk, registrar or election official at the voting place may cast a regular ballot upon submission of an affidavit by the municipal clerk, registrar or election official attesting to the person's identity. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of State to provide, at no fee, nondriver identification cards to eligible persons who do not have another form of acceptable photographic

identification to verify identity for the purpose of voting.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-27)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, increases from three to five the number of days a voter who voted by provisional ballot has to provide an election clerk with a valid form of photo identification. It clarifies that the photo identification may also be provided to a municipal clerk or a deputy municipal clerk. Finally, the amendment adds a mandate preamble and an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

LD 204 **An Act To Prohibit Certain Activities by Maine Clean Election Act Candidates** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MASTRACCIO WOODSOME	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a certified candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act from establishing a political action committee with the primary purpose of electing that candidate to a position of leadership in the State Senate or House of Representatives for which the candidate is a principal officer, fund-raiser or decision maker.

LD 225 **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Collection of Signatures for Referenda** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PARRY COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill limits the collecting of signatures on petitions for the direct initiative of legislation or a people's veto referendum to persons who have been residents of the State for at least one year.

LD 270 **An Act To Temporarily Reduce the Annual High-stakes Beano Fee from $50,000 to $25,000** **PUBLIC 24**
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MITCHELL	OTP-AM	H-23

This bill sets the fee for a high-stakes beano license, currently $50,000, at $12,500.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-23)

This amendment strikes the provision in the bill that reduces the annual fee for high-stakes beano from $50,000 to $12,500. Existing law states that the annual fee was to be set at $25,000 from 2008 to 2013. The amendment provides that the fee be set at $25,000 through 2016. The amendment retains the provision of the bill that makes the change retroactive to apply to the 2014 fee.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 24 reduces the annual fee for the operation of high-stakes beano from $50,000 to $25,000. This reduction applies to retroactively for 2014 and continues through 2016.

Public Law 2015, chapter 24 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2015.

LD 298 **An Act To Require Political Action Committees To Report the Receipt of Paid Services Received from State Agencies** **Veto Sustained**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
	OTP	

Under current law, when nonprofit corporations or commercial entities compensate their employees to provide services to a political action committee, the committee is required to report the services as a contribution. The bill requires that political action committees also report the receipt of services paid for by state agencies.

LD 334 **An Act To Improve the Maine Clean Election Act** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DEVIN JOHNSON	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a person certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate seeking election to the State Senate or State House of Representatives from establishing a political action committee or serving as a fund-raiser or principal decision maker for a political action committee unless the political action committee is established to provide the person with professional development, networking and educational opportunities related to work that person may perform as a legislator. The bill also sets limits on how much money may be raised for such a political action committee.

LD 364 **An Act To Allow a Sales Representative To Serve Alcoholic Beverages at a Tasting Event** **PUBLIC 129**
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MALABY LANGLEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-175 H-185 MALABY

This bill repeals the prohibition on a sales representative's pouring or distributing distilled spirits or wine at a tasting event.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-175)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment provides that a licensed sales representative may pour samples of spirits, wine or malt liquor at a taste-testing event that has been authorized by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations at an on-premise retail licensee's establishment, an agency liquor store or an off-premise retail licensee's establishment. Under the amendment, when a retailer requests authority to conduct a taste-testing event, the request must indicate whether a licensed sales representative will be participating by pouring samples and verification that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course approved by the commissioner.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the amendment.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 129 provides that a licensed sales representative may pour samples of spirits, wine or malt liquor at a taste-testing event that has been authorized by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations at an on-premise retail licensee's establishment, an agency liquor store or an off-premise retail licensee's establishment. Under this law, when a retailer requests authority to conduct a taste-testing event, the request must indicate whether a licensed sales representative will be participating by pouring samples and verification that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course approved by the commissioner.

Public Law 2015, chapter 129 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2015.

LD 366 **An Act Regarding the Sale and Taxation of Hard Cider** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TIMBERLAKE MASON	ONTP	

This bill includes within the definition of "hard cider" liquor produced by fermentation of pears and cranberries or combinations of apples, pears and cranberries.

LD 370 **An Act To Amend the Lobbyist Disclosure Procedures Law** **Died On Adjournment**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
	OTP-AM	S-14

This bill amends the laws governing disclosures made by lobbyists by:

1. Permitting a lobbyist to notify the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices of the termination of a lobbying relationship rather than requiring notice by the lobbyist's employer;

2. Removing the requirement that state employees must sign annual registration forms in order to facilitate electronic submission of registrations; and

3. Requiring the commission to deposit the entire registration fee paid by lobbyists and lobbyist associates into a special revenue account to be spent on administrative and technology costs to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance information to the public.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-14)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 378 **An Act To Facilitate the Issuance of a Gravestone for a Deceased Veteran with No Next of Kin** **PUBLIC 208**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ALFOND LUCHINI	OTP-AM	S-126

This bill makes the Adjutant General the next of kin to a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relatives and directs the Adjutant General to ensure the veteran receives all death benefits, including a grave marker from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-126)

This amendment clarifies that the Adjutant General may appoint a designee to be considered next of kin for a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relative.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 208 makes the Adjutant General, or the Adjutant General's designee, the next of kin to a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relatives and directs the Adjutant General to ensure the veteran receives all death benefits, including a grave marker from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

LD 383 **An Act Requiring Corporations To Have Approval from a Majority of Their Shareholders before Making Political Contributions Valued at Greater Than $5,000** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GRATWICK TIPPING-SPITZ	ONTP	

This bill requires a majority vote of shareholders in order for a Maine corporation to make a political contribution or expenditure of over $5,000 and requires that once the contribution or expenditure has been made the corporation send notice to its shareholders and post the notice on its website. This bill makes a director who makes a contribution in violation of these conditions personally liable to the corporation in the amount of the contribution or expenditure plus 6% interest per year.

LD 412 **An Act Regarding Telephonic Political Communications and Push Polling** **Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
COOPER BREEN	OTP-AM	H-32

This bill amends the political communications laws to require that all prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted live telephone communications, including those made for the purposes of researching the views of voters, that name a clearly identified candidate during the 21 days before a primary election or the 35 days before a general election clearly state at the start of the call the name of the person or organization that made or financed the expenditure for the communication. The bill requires that, for scripted live telephone communications, if the respondent requests additional information on the person or organization that made or financed the expenditure for the communication, the caller must describe where such information, including information relating to the source or sources of funding for the person or organization, is available for inspection. The bill also amends the push polling laws to require that a caller disclose at the start of a call the person or organization sponsoring or authorizing the call and the organization making the call if different from the sponsor. Current law requires only that these disclosures be made at some point during the call. This bill also requires that, if a respondent requests additional information on the person or organization sponsoring or authorizing the call, the caller must describe to the respondent where such information, including information relating to the source or sources of funding for the person or organization, is available for inspection.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-32)

This amendment replaces the bill. It requires that a political communication in the form of a prerecorded automated telephone call must clearly state the name of the person who financed the expenditure for the communication at the beginning of the call. Current law does not specify when during the call this statement is required.

LD 413 **An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots** **Accepted Minority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BROOKS LIBBY	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the third day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a third person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-59)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. Current law provides for certain circumstances when a voter is permitted to request an absentee ballot after the third business day preceding election day. One of those circumstances is when a voter attests that the voter will be unexpectedly absent from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day. The amendment provides that an application for an absentee ballot may be accepted after the deadline if the voter will be absent on election day without the voter attesting that the absence was unexpected.

LD 507 **An Act To Allow Primary Petition Signature Requirements To Be Proportional with Party Enrollment** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHIPMAN	ONTP	

This bill changes the law governing a candidate's nomination by primary election for the office of Governor, United States Senator or Representative to Congress. It changes the number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Governor or United States Senator to be 1% of the voters enrolled in the candidate's party and residing in the candidate's electoral district as of December 1st of the year before the election or the current minimum requirement of 2,000 voters, whichever is less. It also changes the number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Representative to Congress to be 1% of the voters so enrolled or the current minimum of 1,000 voters, whichever is less.

LD 508 **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality** **PUBLIC 128**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LYFORD ROSEN	OTP	

Current law allows up to eight agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population from 20,000 to 50,000 and up to ten agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 50,000. This bill changes that

allotment to an allotment that allows up to eight agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 20,000 to 30,000, nine agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 30,000 to 45,000 and ten agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 45,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 128 changes the allotment of agency liquor stores in municipalities with a population from 20,000 to 50,000. Chapter 128 allows up to eight agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 20,000 to 30,000, nine agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 30,000 to 45,000 and ten agency liquor licenses for municipalities with a population over 45,000.

LD 509 **An Act To Facilitate the Timely Return of Requested Absentee Ballots** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SCHNECK GRATWICK	ONTP	

This bill requires that the return envelopes for absentee ballots supplied to municipalities by the Secretary of State allow a voter to use the United States Postal Service to return the ballot to the municipal clerk at no cost to the voter.

LD 510 **An Act To Increase the Number of Container Options for Breweries** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
AUSTIN COLLINS	ONTP	

This bill removes the requirement that beer dispensed by a brewery at its on-premises location for off-premises consumption be in bottles with labels unique to the brewery.

LD 511 **An Act To Permit a Licensed Sales Representative To Provide Spirits at an Approved Tasting Event** **PUBLIC 184**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GIDEON HASKELL	OTP-AM ONTP	H-176

This bill amends the law concerning licensed sales representatives at liquor tasting events by allowing a sales representative to provide spirits to be sampled under certain conditions and by allowing a sales representative to pour spirits or wine at a liquor tasting event.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-176)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment provides that a licensed sales representative may provide spirits for a taste testing at an agency liquor store. The agency liquor store must indicate that a sales representative will be providing the product and verify that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course when it requests authorization to conduct a spirits tasting event. Spirits provided by a sales representative must be purchased at the regular retail price from the agency liquor store where the tasting will take place. Under the provision of law governing licensed sales representatives, the amendment adds the requirement that a sales representative who provides spirits for a consumer

tasting at an agency liquor store must have successfully completed an alcohol server education course. The amendment also makes a technical correction to existing law governing licensed sales representatives.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 184 provides that a licensed sales representative may provide spirits for a taste testing at an agency liquor store. The agency liquor store must indicate that a sales representative will be providing the product and verify that the sales representative has successfully completed an alcohol server education course when it requests authorization to conduct a spirits tasting event. Spirits provided by a sales representative must be purchased at the regular retail price from the agency liquor store where the tasting will take place. Under the provision of law governing licensed sales representatives, chapter 184 adds the requirement that a sales representative who provides spirits for a consumer tasting at an agency liquor store must have successfully completed an alcohol server education course.

LD 516 **An Act Regarding Gaming** **PUBLIC 96**
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-24

This bill clarifies the authority of the State Liquor and Lottery Commission with regard to the conduct of lotteries. It provides that lotteries may include draw games in which the prize paid is calculated as a share of the prize pool but may not include draw games, such as keno, in which the player wins a set prize amount based on the wager made by the player.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-24)

This amendment clarifies that authorized lottery games do not include draw games, such as keno, that have more than five daily drawings and in which a player wins a set prize amount based on the wager made by the player.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 96 clarifies the authority of the State Liquor and Lottery Commission with regard to the conduct of lotteries. It provides that lotteries may include draw games in which the prize paid is calculated as a share of the prize pool but may not include draw games with more than five daily drawings, such as keno, in which the player wins a set prize amount based on the wager made by the player.

Public Law 2015, chapter 96 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 20, 2015.

LD 523 **An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Sale of Liquor** **PUBLIC 101**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GRATWICK GOODE	OTP-AM	S-61

This bill allows a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages at a civic auditorium to be issued to the civic auditorium owner or operator or to the entity providing the alcoholic beverages. The bill provides that, in specific areas of the civic auditorium, such as club seats, suites or meeting spaces, alcoholic beverages may be sold in their original containers. The bill provides that alcoholic beverages may be sold during an event at a civic auditorium primarily attended by minors as long as they are sold in areas where the event is not taking place. The bill repeals the requirement that a licensee give written notice to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations at least 24 hours before a function or event at a civic

auditorium. The bill also requires the bureau to establish a required training program for persons who serve or sell alcoholic beverages.

The bill permits a person under 18 years of age to entertain at a licensed premises while liquor is being sold or consumed if the performance takes place in a civic auditorium, Class A restaurant, club or hotel dining room and the person is a member of an entertainment performance group.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-61)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment clarifies that a license to serve alcoholic beverages under a civic auditorium license may be issued to the owner of the auditorium, a contracted operator or the vendor who provides alcoholic beverages to patrons of the auditorium.

The amendment, like the bill, repeals the requirement that a civic auditorium provide at least 24 hours' notice prior to holding any event where alcoholic beverages will be served. The amendment also provides for a definition of "club suite" and establishes limitations under which spirits may be sold in original containers for service within the suite, including a limit of six containers of spirits products. Finally, the amendment directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to amend rules governing the presence of persons 18 years of age or younger at a venue where they are part of a performance group providing entertainment where alcoholic beverages may be sold.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 101 provides that a license to serve alcoholic beverages under a civic auditorium license may be issued to the owner of the auditorium, a contracted operator or the vendor who provides alcoholic beverages to patrons of the auditorium. It repeals the requirement that a civic auditorium provide at least 24 hours' notice prior to holding any event where alcoholic beverages will be served. Chapter 101 also provides for a definition of "club suite" and establishes limitations under which spirits may be sold in original containers for service within the suite, including a limit of six containers of spirits products. Finally, this law directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to amend rules governing the presence of persons 18 years of age or younger at a venue where they are part of a performance group providing entertainment where alcoholic beverages may be sold.

LD 532 **An Act To Prohibit Maine Clean Election Act Candidates from Accepting Special Interest Money through a Political Party or Political Action Committee** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRAKEY VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a certified candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act from establishing a political action committee of which the person is a principal officer, fund-raiser or decision maker. A certified candidate is also prohibited from acting as a decision maker for a party committee with regard to independent expenditures in support of the election or defeat of a candidate for Governor, State Senate or State House of Representatives.

LD 555 **An Act To Distribute a Portion of Proceeds from the Oxford Casino to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs** **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BEAR WILLETTE		

This bill provides the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians the same distribution of net slot machine income from casino slot machines operated in Oxford County as is provided to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe under current law.

LD 585 **An Act Regarding the Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PICCHIOTTI	ONTP	

Under current law, municipal clerks are authorized to process absentee ballots on the Monday before the election as long as established notice, inspection, processing and security procedures are followed. This bill allows municipal clerks to process absentee ballots on the Saturday or Monday before the election, or both, as long as all these procedures are followed.

LD 616 **An Act To Allow Certain Wine and Hard Cider Manufacturing Partnerships** **PUBLIC 185 EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TIMBERLAKE MASON	OTP-AM	H-265 S-195 CYRWAY

This bill clarifies that hard cider manufactured by the holder of a winery or small winery license is subject to the same provisions as wine. The bill provides that one of the additional locations where a small winery may sell its product, including hard cider, may be at the farm or orchard where the fruit used to make the cider was harvested. It also provides that the farm or orchard must be owned by the license holder but may be a corporation that is separate from the winery.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-265)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes a tenant winery license similar to the tenant brewery license in current law. Under the amendment, a tenant winery must have approval from the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau authorizing an alternating proprietorship with another winery. The amendment allows up to nine tenant wineries per host winery. A tenant winery may share or rent the facilities and equipment of the host winery under certain conditions, including maintaining control of their own raw ingredients and complying with reporting requirements of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. Since manufacturers of hard cider are licensed as wineries under current law, this amendment applies to the manufacture of hard cider as well as wine.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-195)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 185 establishes a tenant winery license similar to the tenant brewery license in current law. Under this law, a tenant winery must have approval from the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau authorizing an alternating proprietorship with another winery. Chapter 185 allows up to nine tenant wineries per host winery. A tenant winery may share or rent the facilities and equipment of the host winery under certain conditions, including maintaining control of their own raw ingredients and complying with reporting requirements of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. Since manufacturers of hard cider are licensed as wineries under current law, this law applies to the manufacture of hard cider as well as wine.

Public Law 2015, chapter 185 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2015.

LD 617 **An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits** **Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHIPMAN LIBBY	OTP-AM	

This bill reduces the maximum allowable contribution to a municipal candidate from $750 to $350, which was the limit prior to January 1, 2012.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-167)

This amendment adds to the bill a provision that applies the $350 campaign contribution limit in the bill for candidates for municipal office to candidates for a county office and establishes an effective date for the bill of January 1, 2016.

LD 618 **An Act To Facilitate the Production of Hard Cider in Maine** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BROOKS LIBBY	ONTP	

This bill allows the holder of a brewery or small brewery license to manufacture hard cider.

LD 619 **An Act To Limit the Participation of Candidates and Legislators in Political Action Committees and Nonprofit Entities Conducting Political Activities** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHENETTE VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a candidate or current Legislator from soliciting contributions for or playing any role in a political action committee or a nonprofit entity unless the organization limits its activities to ballot questions for the

duration of the election cycle.

LD 620 **An Act To Allow Veterans' Organizations To Own and Operate Slot Machines** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PICCHIOTTI	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue licenses for the operation of slot machines to charitable nonprofit organizations and off-track betting facilities. A charitable nonprofit organization must have been a bona fide nonprofit for at least two years prior to October 1, 2014 and must own or lease the premises on which the slot machines are operated. An eligible nonprofit charitable organization is limited to five slot machines. Facilities licensed as off-track betting facilities are limited to 50 machines per facility. The bill increases the statewide limit on the number of slot machines to be operated from 3,000 to 3,250.

A charitable nonprofit organization authorized to operate slot machines is required to distribute 30% of net slot machine revenue to the board to be divided among the Gambling Control Board, gambling addiction and treatment programs, the General Fund and the host municipality. An off-track betting facility is required to distribute 45% of net slot machine revenue to the board to be divided among the Gambling Control Board, gambling addiction and treatment programs, the General Fund, the host municipality and the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund.

LD 626 **An Act Regarding Write-in Candidates in Municipal and City Elections** **PUBLIC 160**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MASON	OTP-AM	S-107

Current law requires municipal and city ballot clerks to count all write-in votes in a municipal or city election regardless of the number of write-in votes cast. This bill provides that a ballot clerk must count and tabulate the votes cast for a write-in candidate only if the printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate or the number of write-in votes exceeds the number of votes for a candidate printed on the ballot.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-107)

This amendment replaces the bill. It provides a local option for municipalities to accept the provisions of state election law governing votes for write-in candidates for their municipal elections of candidates by secret ballot. The amendment also provides that a municipality must count votes for write-in candidates only under certain circumstances, such as when there is no properly nominated candidate or when a properly nominated candidate whose name is listed on the ballot withdraws from the race on or before election day.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 160 provides a local option for municipalities to accept the provisions of state election law governing votes for write-in candidates for their municipal elections of candidates by secret ballot. It also provides that a municipality must count votes for write-in candidates only under certain circumstances, such as when there is no properly nominated candidate or when a properly nominated candidate whose name is listed on the ballot withdraws from the race on or before election day.

LD 635 **An Act To Allow B.Y.O.B. Function Permit Holders To Hold Multiple Events at the Same Location** **PUBLIC 106**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DILL TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM ONTP	S-75

This bill authorizes a person who has been issued a B.Y.O.B. function permit from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to hold multiple functions over a period of two calendar years as long as the bureau is provided notice at least 24 hours prior to each function. The bill also provides that a B.Y.O.B. function may be held outside of established premises, including but not limited to open space and parking lots adjacent to a facility where sporting events take place.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment provides that a B.Y.O.B. permit holder may be issued a 12-month permit that allows for multiple events over that period as long as the events are held at the same location. The bill allows a two-year permit and provides that a B.Y.O.B. function may be held outside of the established premises.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 106 provides that a B.Y.O.B. permit holder may be issued a 12-month permit that allows for multiple events over that period as long as the events are held at the same location.

LD 677 **An Act To Amend the Election Laws Concerning Candidates and Nominees** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHENETTE VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill makes changes to the laws governing the withdrawal and replacement of candidates for an office other than United States Senator, Representative to Congress or Governor. It amends the requirements that must be met in order for a political committee to make a replacement nomination. It requires notification of a meeting to name a replacement candidate and it requires that a minimum of five residents of the electoral district who are members of the political party making the replacement attend the meeting.

LD 678 **An Act Concerning the Ability of On-premises Liquor Licensees To Dispense Liquor in Sealed Refillable Containers** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHENETTE VALENTINO	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill allows on-premises retail liquor licensees to dispense liquor from kegs into sealable refillable containers for resale.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-205)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, provides for specific conditions that must be met in

order for an on-premises licensee that is not a brewery or small brewery to sell malt liquor for off-premises consumption in refillable containers. In order for a licensee to be able to sell malt liquor in refillable containers, it must offer at least 25 brands of malt liquor on tap at the licensee's establishment. It also requires that the refillable containers be unique to the licensee and may be filled only upon request of a customer with malt liquor produced by small breweries or malt liquor manufactured outside the United States.

LD 684 **An Act To Amend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Sold and Purchased** **PUBLIC 74**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KINNEY J PATRICK	OTP-AM ONTP	H-60

This bill allows a holder of a liquor license to sell or deliver liquor from 5 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. of the following day except in those areas in which liquor may not be sold on Sundays. The bill also amends sections of law that deal with the sale of liquor on Sundays to reflect this change.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-60)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that vessels licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption may do so until 1 a.m. of the following day, which is consistent with the time allowed for other on-premises licensees under current law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 74 allows a holder of a liquor license to sell or deliver liquor from 5 a.m. on any day until 1 a.m. of the following day except in those areas in which liquor may not be sold on Sundays. It also clarifies that vessels licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption may do so until 1 a.m. of the following day, which is consistent with the time allowed for other on-premises licensees under the law.

LD 693 **An Act To Amend the Military Bureau Laws** **PUBLIC 120**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CYRWAY LUCHINI	OTP-AM	S-97

This bill provides that records of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Bureau may not be disclosed to the public. It provides that the Maine Army National Guard may receive seized money and assets for counter-drug activities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-97)

The bill adds a provision to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15 regarding counter-drug activities by the Maine National Guard. This amendment retains that provision but moves it to Title 37-B. The amendment also strikes the provision of the bill that specifies that records of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Bureau may not be disclosed to the public. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 120 provides that the Maine Army National Guard may receive seized assets and money resulting from counter-drug activities for which the Maine Army National Guard provided assistance.

LD 694 **An Act To Improve the Veterans' Services Laws** **PUBLIC 175**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-192

This bill provides that a person is ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System if that person has been proven to have committed a serious crime, such as murder, a sexual offense or any crime punishable by imprisonment for life. It also allows Department of Labor personnel to access veterans' military service records.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)

This amendment replaces section 1 of the bill with a new provision regarding who is ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. The amendment specifies that a person is not eligible for interment if the person has been convicted of the crime of murder; a crime in another jurisdiction punishable by a sentence of life imprisonment or death; a crime under any other jurisdiction's sex offender laws requiring the person to register for life; a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248, 42 United States Code, Chapter 151; or a sexual offense requiring a person to register under Maine's sex offender registration acts for life, including a Class C crime under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 853, subsection 1 or a Class A or Class B crime under:

1. Title 17-A, chapter 11;

2. Title 17-A, chapter 12; or

3. Title 17-A, section 301, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (3).

The amendment also specifies that a person is not eligible for interment if the person has been found to have committed any of the previously listed crimes but has not been convicted because the person has not been available for trial due to the person's death or flight to avoid prosecution. Any such finding may be based only upon a showing of clear and convincing evidence, after an opportunity for a hearing in a manner prescribed by the appropriate federal official.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 175 adds a provision to the laws governing who is ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. It specifies that a person is not eligible for interment if the person has been convicted of the crime of murder; a crime in another jurisdiction punishable by a sentence of life imprisonment or death; a crime under any other jurisdiction's sex offender laws requiring the person to register for life; a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248, 42 United States Code, Chapter 151; or a sexual offense requiring a person to register under Maine's sex offender registration acts for life, including a Class C crime under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 853, subsection 1 or a Class A or Class B crime under:

1. Title 17-A, chapter 11;

2. Title 17-A, chapter 12; or

3. Title 17-A, section 301, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (3).

Chapter 175 also specifies that a person is not eligible for interment if the person has been found to have committed

any of the previously listed crimes but has not been convicted because the person has not been available for trial due to the person's death or flight to avoid prosecution. Any such finding may be based only upon a showing of clear and convincing evidence, after an opportunity for a hearing in a manner prescribed by the appropriate federal official.

Finally, this law allows Department of Labor personnel to access veterans' military service records.

LD 719 **An Act To Provide Fair Access To Maine Clean Election Act Funds** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SUKEFORTH	ONTP	

Under current law, candidates for the Legislature who are unenrolled in a political party have until the April 20th preceding a primary election to submit the required qualifying contributions and required documents in order to receive campaign financing under the Maine Clean Election Act. This bill pushes that date back to June 30th.

LD 720 **An Act To Establish an Open Primary System in the State** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAUGHTRY	ONTP	

This bill provides that the names of all candidates for Governor, United States Senator and Representative to Congress, including candidates enrolled in a party and unenrolled candidates, must appear on the same primary ballot. All voters, regardless of enrollment status, vote using identical ballots for candidates for these offices. Only the names of the two candidates who receive the most votes at the primary election for these offices appear on the ballot for the general election.

LD 721 **Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans** **RESOLVE 48 EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GOLDEN COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-255 S-335 MASON

This resolve establishes the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans, which must report by December 2, 2015 with its findings and recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-255)

This amendment changes the membership of the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans to better comply with study guidelines and assigns a more specific list of duties for the commission with regard to identifying insufficiency of services required for and provided to Maine veterans. The amendment also extends the commission's reporting date to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs from December 2, 2015 to January 15, 2016 and states that staffing will be provided to the commission by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-335)

This amendment removes one Senate member and one House member from the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 48 establishes the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans, which must report by January 15, 2016 with its findings and recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The commission is charged with identifying gaps and insufficiencies in services and benefits provided to Maine veterans at the state and federal level. It is also tasked with identifying partnerships, initiatives and communication strategies to address the identified gaps and inefficiencies. The resolve authorizes the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Resolve 2015, chapter 48 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective July 12, 2015.

LD 742 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That 5 Percent of Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each County** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SAVIELLO		

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that at least 5% of the number of signatures required on a petition to directly initiate legislation be of electors registered to vote in each of the 16 counties.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-129)

The resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that signatures on a petition to directly initiate legislation be of voters from every county of the State. This amendment instead proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that the number of signatures on a petition to directly initiate legislation be of voters from each of the State's two congressional districts in an amount not less than 10% of the total votes for Governor cast in that congressional district in the previous gubernatorial election.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-417)

This amendment provides that if the required votes are cast in favor of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, the proposed amendment becomes part of the Constitution on March 1, 2016 instead of on the date of the Governor's proclamation.

This resolution was reported out of committe, then cimmitted back to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

LD 744 **An Act To Permit Unenrolled Voters To Cast Ballots in Primary Elections** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KATZ MAKER	ONTP	

This bill allows unenrolled voters to vote in primary elections without having to enroll in a political party.

LD 754 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Ensure That Laws Governing Hunting and Fishing Are Not Subject to the Citizen Petition Process** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WOOD DAVIS	ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to exclude from laws that may be proposed in a citizen initiative laws governing hunting and fishing.

LD 761 **An Act To Authorize Free Samples of Liquor by a Restaurant** **PUBLIC 142**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FREDETTE	OTP-AM	H-225

This bill allows a restaurant, Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer complimentary samples of wine to a customer subject to certain conditions.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-225)

This amendment changes the bill by allowing a Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer samples of malt liquor, wine and spirits. The bill allows for restaurants to offer samples of wine only. The amendment provides that a person may not be given more than three samples per day. The amendment also establishes sample size limits. A sample of malt liquor may not exceed three ounces. A sample of wine may not exceed one ounce. A sample of spirits may not exceed one-half of one ounce. Finally, the amendment specifies that samples must be provided in areas of the restaurant where liquor is normally served. Like the bill, the amendment provides that samples are for customers and may not be provided to minors or visibly intoxicated persons.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 142 allows a licensed Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge to offer samples of malt liquor, wine and spirits. It provides that a person may not be provided more than three samples per day and establishes a sample amount limit of one ounce of wine, three ounces of malt liquor and one-half of one ounce of spirits.

LD 762 **An Act To Permit the Penobscot Nation To Operate Electronic High-stakes Bingo** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MITCHELL DILL	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Penobscot Nation to use electronic beano terminals for the operation of high-stakes electronic beano. It specifies that an electronic beano terminal is not a slot machine or an illegal gambling machine. An electronic beano terminal plays a game of chance resembling a beano game using a draw of no more than 75 letters and numbers that correspond to the game. The element of chance is determined by a central computer server system that is subject to testing by an independent testing company and to which the Chief of the State Police is provided access via the Internet for the purpose of conducting audits and monitoring play. An electronic beano

terminal is not permitted to dispense cash or prizes. Instead, prizes for high-stakes electronic beano are awarded by voucher. The bill also clarifies that, unlike traditional beano, beano conducted on an electronic beano terminal is not required to be a group game.

LD 770 **An Act To Permit Maine Residents To Register To Vote Online** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RUSSELL	ONTP	

This bill requires the Secretary of State to implement a system that allows a person to register to vote online. The system requires an applicant to provide certain information, which is verified using driver's license or nondriver identification card data maintained by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles. An applicant must submit an affidavit attesting that all information provided in the electronic voter registration application is true. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules to administer the electronic voter registration system and requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration matters.

LD 777 **An Act To Establish a Seasonal Agency Liquor License** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LUCHINI LANGLEY	ONTP	

This bill establishes a seasonal agency liquor store license. It authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to issue one seasonal license in a municipality with a year-round population of at least 5,001 if between June 1st and October 1st the population increases by a number that would otherwise qualify the municipality for an additional agency liquor store license.

LD 779 **An Act To Increase the Minimum Population Requirement for a Municipality in Which the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations May Locate an Additional Agency Liquor Store** **PUBLIC 221**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KATZ THERIAULT	OTP-AM	S-159

This bill increases from 2,000 to 5,000 the allowable population of a municipality in which the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations may establish an additional liquor store.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-159)

This amendment clarifies that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations may license one agency liquor store in a municipality with a population of less than 2,000. This amendment also authorizes the bureau to issue one additional liquor store license in a municipality with a population of less than 10,000, instead of 5,000 as in the bill, and to consider the impact of seasonal population or tourism when determining whether to issue the additional license. Finally, this amendment specifies that a waiver from time requirements does not apply to certain applicants for an additional liquor store license in a municipality that already has the authorized number of liquor store licenses.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 221 clarifies current law stating that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations may license one agency liquor store in a municipality with a population of less than 2,000. It also authorizes the bureau to issue one additional liquor store license, beyond the current limitation, in a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 and to consider the impact of seasonal population or tourism when determining whether to issue the additional license. Finally, chapter 221 specifies that a waiver from time requirements does not apply to certain applicants for an additional liquor store license in a municipality that already has the authorized number of liquor store licenses.

LD 790 **An Act To Make Political Advertising Accountable and Transparent** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ESPLING	ONTP	

This bill requires a communication that is intended to influence a ballot question election and that depicts a wildlife management practice to include information about any image or video used in the communication whether or not the practice is legal in the State. It also requires that if a communication includes an image or video of a wildlife management practice the communication must state the location where the image or video was created and the date on which it was made.

LD 804 **An Act To Establish the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DEVIN GERZOFSKY	ONTP	

This bill, which proposes to enact a Private and Special Law, establishes the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee to serve as a clearinghouse of information and suggested legislation regarding veterans' issues at the local, state and federal levels.

LD 805 **Resolve, Authorizing Certain Individuals To Bring Suit against the Department of Health and Human Services** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FARNSWORTH DUTREMBLE		

This resolve authorizes Sara Bachelder individually and on behalf of her two minor children; Danielle and Christopher Pouliot individually and on behalf of their minor child; Hannah and Brett Williams individually and on behalf of their minor child; Tonya Later and Albert Sico III individually and on behalf of their minor child; and Michelle Tapley individually and on behalf of her minor child to bring suit against the Department of Health and Human Services for damages in connection with actions taken by the Department of Health and Human Services and constitutes a waiver of the State's defense of sovereign immunity.

This resolve was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 806 **An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act, Improve Disclosure and Make Other Changes to the Campaign Finance Laws** **INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted

This initiated bill makes the following changes to the laws governing campaign finance reporting and disclosure and the Maine Clean Election Act.

1. It authorizes the establishment of gubernatorial transition committees for the purpose of raising money to finance a Governor-elect's inauguration and transition into office and establishes requirements regarding disclosure and acceptance of donations from persons involved in lobbying.

2. It amends the Maine Clean Election Act by adding a system of optional supplemental funding for participating Maine Clean Election Act candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions.

3. It establishes new baseline initial distribution amounts for Maine Clean Election Act candidates.

4. It authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to impose enhanced penalties for campaign finance violations occurring shortly before election day.

5. It increases the baseline penalties for failure to file required reports.

6. It increases the maximum penalties for certain campaign finance violations.

7. It requires communications that are independent expenditures to include a conspicuous statement listing the top three funders of the entity making the independent expenditure.

8. It increases the amount of the annual transfer to the Maine Clean Election Fund from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000.

9. It requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to report annually on the Maine Clean Election Fund's projected needs, including an operating margin of 20%.

10. It repeals the seed money requirement for gubernatorial candidates.

11. It adjusts the number of qualifying contributions required for initial certification of gubernatorial candidates from 3,250 to 3,200 to correspond to the increments established for supplemental funds distributions.

12. It doubles the seed money cap for legislative candidates.

13. It provides rule-making authority for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices regarding several of the statutory changes.

14. It directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters to report out legislation to eliminate corporate tax expenditures totaling $6,000,000 per biennium, prioritizing low-performing tax expenditures.

This bill was not referred to committee.

LD 837 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit the Application of a Citizen Initiative Concerning Wildlife Matters to Counties in Which It Is Approved** **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SHAW		

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that a citizen initiative concerning wildlife matters that is approved by vote of the people applies only in counties in which a majority of the votes in those counties approved the initiative.

LD 838 **An Act To Enhance Equity and Efficiency for Off-track Betting Facilities** **PUBLIC 200**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PICCHIOTTI	OTP-AM	H-206

This bill adjusts the distribution of commissions on simulcasting of races with commingled pools originating at a racetrack in another state by an off-track betting facility without reducing the portion of those revenues that benefit the State. In addition, the bill eliminates the off-track betting facility simulcast fund share received by a commercial track whose parent company is owned or operated or owned and operated by a casino in this State. The bill also modifies the requirement that an off-track betting facility operator be a liquor license holder, but maintains the requirement that an off-track betting facility be situated in a facility that is licensed to serve liquor and food. The bill also eliminates the requirement for at least 150 race dates in the preceding two calendar years before interstate simulcasting or the licensing of an off-track betting facility is allowed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-206)

This amendment changes the definition in the bill of "net commission" to reduce the reduction for amount wagered from 6.5% to 4%. The amendment removes the section in the bill that provides an exception to the requirement that an off-track betting licensee must also have a liquor license. The amendment also strikes the provision of the bill that eliminates payments of the off-track betting facility simulcast fund share to a commercial track whose parent company operates a casino in the State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 200 establishes a definition of "net commission" as it applies to how wagers are distributed by those licensed by the Harness Racing Commission to accept wagers on horse racing. Net commission is defined as the total commission less 4% of the amount wagered on a race. Chapter 200 adjusts the distribution of commissions on simulcasting of races with commingled pools originating at a racetrack in another state by an off-track betting facility. This law also eliminates the requirement for at least 150 race dates in the preceding two calendar years before interstate simulcasting or the licensing of an off-track betting facility is allowed.

LD 850 **An Act To Establish Special Elections To Fill United States Senate Vacancies** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MOONEN	ONTP	

This bill provides that, when there is a vacancy in the office of United States Senator, the Governor is required to issue a proclamation declaring the vacancy and ordering a special primary election, which must be held no later than 100 days after the vacancy occurred, followed by a special election to fill the vacancy.

LD 858 **An Act To Better Inform the Public of Election Results** **PUBLIC 146**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BAKER	OTP-AM	S-130

This bill requires the municipal clerk, as soon as the ballots in an election are counted, to post the results in a place accessible to the public so that they may be viewed when the municipal office is closed.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-130)

This amendment requires an election official to post a paper copy of the unofficial results of an election as soon as practicable after the ballots are counted at the voting place or municipal office if there is a secure place at the voting place or municipal office where the public may view the results even when the voting place or municipal office is closed. The amendment establishes this requirement in a separate section rather than in the section of law that requires the declaration by the warden of the results after the ballots are counted, as in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 146 requires an election official to post a paper copy of the unofficial results of an election as soon as practicable after the ballots are counted at the voting place or municipal office if there is a secure place at the voting place or municipal office where the public may view the results even when the voting place or municipal office is closed.

LD 904 **An Act To Increase Fairness in Campaign Financing** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SUKEFORTH		

Current law limits the amount individuals, political committees, political action committees and other entities may contribute to a candidate for Governor to $1,500 in any primary, general or special election. The limit for a legislative candidate is $350 per election. This bill provides that individuals, political committees, political action committees and other entities may contribute a total of $3,000 to a candidate for Governor, including a maximum of $1,500 for a primary election, and a total of $750 to a legislative candidate, including a maximum of $375 for a primary election.

This bill was carried over to any regular or special session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 923 **An Act To Create Jobs and Increase Consumer Wine Choice** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GIDEON PATRICK	ONTP	

This bill allows a person who is not a retailer or wholesaler licensed to sell wine or malt liquor in the State to auction fine and rare wines from a private collection to private collectors, retailers and wholesalers under certain conditions.

LD 935 **An Act Regarding Alcohol Manufacturing Licenses Issued to Research Facilities** **PUBLIC 149**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DILL TIPPING-SPITZ	OTP-AM	S-98

This bill creates a liquor manufacturing license for a research facility at a postsecondary educational institution. Under the bill, other liquor manufacturers, known as subject manufacturers, may produce malt liquor, wine, sparkling wine, fortified wine and spirits at the research facility and the research facility may itself manufacture malt liquor, wine, sparkling wine, fortified wine and spirits for research or instructional purposes, which the research facility also may sell to the State, wholesalers or retailers or directly to the public under certain circumstances.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-98)

This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes a research manufacturer license for a state-sponsored postsecondary educational institution that offers course work or degree programs in food sciences or agricultural sciences. The license authorizes the manufacture of malt liquor, wine or spirits by a licensee for educational purposes and as part of an outreach extension program of the institution that provides food science and food processing consultation and educational services through application of the institution's research to promote business development.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 149 establishes a research manufacturer license for a state-sponsored postsecondary educational institution that offers course work or degree programs in food sciences or agricultural sciences. The license authorizes the manufacture of malt liquor, wine or spirits by a licensee for educational purposes and as part of an outreach extension program of the institution that provides food science and food processing consultation and educational services through application of the institution's research to promote business development.

LD 964 **An Act To Provide Access to Private Apartment Complexes for Political Candidates** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
VACHON VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill allows candidates for office and their accompanying volunteers to access common areas of multiple-unit dwellings such as apartment or condominium buildings, dormitories, fraternity or sorority houses, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or other multiple-unit facilities for the specific purpose of campaigning for that office and leaving campaign materials, subject to certain limitations. This bill does not prohibit denying the candidate access to specific residential units, setting reasonable hours of access, limiting the number of volunteers, requiring an appointment, denying access to a nursing home or assisted living facility for valid health reasons or denying access to or expulsion from a multiple-unit dwelling for good cause. This bill allows an alternative to access if the multiple-unit dwelling hosts a candidate forum and all residents receive prior notice of the forum.

LD 983 **An Act To Clarify Wine Auction Licenses** **PUBLIC 366**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PATRICK GIDEON	OTP-AM	S-226 S-238 PATRICK

This bill allows the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to issue to a holder of an auctioneer license a permit to conduct a wine auction for privately held wine. The bill establishes the fee for and sets specific conditions on the wine auction permit.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-226)

This amendment clarifies when wine is considered to be fine and rare for the purpose of being sold at auction. Under the bill, fine and rare wine is wine that is not available for sale in the State by a licensed retailer or wholesaler. The amendment clarifies that wine meets this fine and rare standard if it is not available for sale at the time the inventory of wine to be auctioned is provided to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The amendment also states that notice of a wine auction must be made to the bureau at least 30 days in advance and that containers of auctioned wine are not subject to the bottle deposit law.

This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-238)

This amendment removes the provision of the committee amendment that exempts containers of auctioned wine from the bottle deposit law. Under this amendment, containers of auctioned wine must comply with the bottle deposit law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 366 establishes a wine auction permit to be issued by the by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The permit authorizes a person who is licensed as an auctioneer by the Board of Licensing of Auctioneers to auction privately held fine and rare wine which is not otherwise available for wholesale or retail sale in the state. An auction permitee is required to provide the bureau with at least 30 days notice prior to an auction and provide a list of the wines subject to bidding. Under chapter 366, wine may not be auctioned to a person licensed to sell wine for off-premises or on-premises consumption.

LD 986 **An Act To Streamline Certain Regulations on Small Distilleries** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BECK	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill allows a small distillery that produces less than 25,000 gallons of spirits per year to fulfill the provision of law requiring the distillery to sell its product to the State by accounting for spirits it sells or provides as samples on the premises of the distillery without being required to transport those spirits from the distillery by filing a monthly accounting with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations of the spirits sold or provided on the premises for that month and paying the difference between

the price at which the distillery sells its spirits to the State and the price at which the distillery purchases back its own spirits from the State and any associated fees and taxes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-349)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It allows a small distillery that produces less than 25,000 gallons of spirits per year to sell its own spirits at the distillery without these spirits having to be transported away from the distillery, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 990 **An Act To Limit Agency Expenditures To Influence Elections** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CHAPMAN GRATWICK	ONTP	

This bill prohibits state agencies from expending public resources to influence the outcome of a direct initiative of legislation, a people's veto referendum or other statewide referendum except to provide an impartial factual summary regarding what is at issue. It also extends the law governing the involvement of executive branch employees in elections to include direct initiatives of legislation, people's veto referenda and other statewide referenda.

LD 997 **An Act To Streamline Licensing Requirements for and Payments from Veterans' Organizations** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DEVIN		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to streamline licensing and registration requirements for veterans' organizations and the method of payments by those veterans' organizations.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1066 **An Act To Provide for the Licensing of a Casino Owned by the Maliseet Tribal Government on Tribal Lands in Aroostook County** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BEAR VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue a casino license to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. A casino licensed under this bill would be located on tribal land in the Town of Houlton and would be limited to 350 slot machines at the facility. The casino would be required to distribute 35% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income to scholarships at secondary educational institutions in the State, federally recognized Indian tribes in the State, gambling addiction services, agricultural fairs, harness racing purses, the casino host county and municipality, Washington County and multiple municipalities in both Aroostook and Washington counties, the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund and other funds. Approval for the

casino is contingent on a referendum vote in Aroostook County. The bill also provides that the initial application fee of $225,000 is not due until the casino has been in operation for one calendar year. The bill also amends existing law that requires entities receiving slot machine revenue to report on how those funds are spent.

LD 1067 **An Act To Protect the Maine Clean Election Fund** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAVITT	ONTP	

This bill requires a political action committee or party committee that makes an expenditure in support of a certified candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act or against an opponent of a certified candidate to pay to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices an amount equal to 10% of that expenditure for deposit in the Maine Clean Election Fund.

LD 1083 **An Act To Facilitate the Use of Half-gallon Containers for Malt Liquor at Maine Brew Pubs** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MCCABE	ONTP	

This bill removes the requirement that the bottles breweries or small breweries use to sell malt liquor for off-premises consumption from their licensed on-premises establishment, typically half-gallon containers, be provided by the breweries and have labels unique to each brewery.

LD 1084 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Exclude Wildlife Issues from Citizen Initiatives** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DUNPHY M BRAKEY	ONTP	

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to exclude from laws that may be proposed in a citizen initiative laws governing wildlife management.

LD 1111 **An Act To Provide Funding to Municipalities To Assist with the Maintenance of Veterans' Graves** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EVANGELOS MIRAMANT	ONTP	

This bill creates the Municipal Veterans' Graves Fund, administered by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, and appropriates $1,000,000 to provide grants to municipalities for the maintenance of veterans' graves in municipal cemeteries.

LD 1123 **An Act To Amend the Campaign Reports and Finances Laws and the Maine Clean Election Act** **Veto Sustained**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
	OTP-AM	S-192

This bill amends the laws governing campaign finance and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices by:

1. Providing the commission discretion to decline to conduct an investigation requested by an outside party, if the violation is alleged to have occurred more than three years before the investigation is requested. This proposed change would not restrict the commission's discretion to initiate an investigation of its own accord;

2. Allowing the commission to refer to the Attorney General potential violations of criminal law rather than requiring the commission to refer all violations of the laws governing campaign reports and finances;

3. Amending the requirements for state party committees to provide mailing addresses for local committee chairs to the commission for purposes of receiving correspondence from the commission;

4. Requiring that prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted live telephone communications made shortly before an election that name a clearly identified candidate clearly state the address of the person that paid for the calls or communications and a statement indicating whether the calls or communications were authorized by a candidate;

5. Requiring candidates to disclose the addresses of payees in their campaign finance reports, consistent with requirements for political action committees and party committees;

6. Providing an exemption from filing primary election campaign finance reports for legislative candidates who file a sworn statement with the commission that they will not conduct financial activity for the primary election. This exemption would be available only to those candidates with no opponent in the primary election and would not exempt candidates from filing campaign finance reports for the general election;

7. Permitting candidates to donate unspent campaign contributions to a political action committee or ballot question committee;

8. Repealing the requirement for a candidate with a campaign surplus or deficit to file a termination report by July 15th following the general election but retaining the requirement that a candidate disclose surpluses or deficits to be carried forward to the next campaign;

9. Amending the threshold for filing an independent expenditure report from $100 to $250;

10. Permitting the commission to require additional information in an independent expenditure report to facilitate the public's identification of the mailing, advertisement or other paid communication that is the subject of the report;

11. Increasing the potential penalty for an individual's failure to register as a candidate with the commission from $10 to $100;

12. Amending the formula used to determine the penalty when a campaign finance report is filed late to provide that the penalty is based on the amount of financial activity reported late rather than on the total financial activity for the period;

13. Allowing candidates and political committees to request a determination by the commission regarding a preliminary penalty through an unsworn communication such as a letter or memo rather than through a sworn statement;

14. Defining the term "ballot question" for the purposes of the laws governing reports by political action committees to refer to a people's veto referendum, direct initiative and other referendums;

15. Requiring political action committees to register with the commission within seven days of receiving contributions or making expenditures above the applicable threshold for the purpose of influencing Maine elections. Under current law, the registration requirement is triggered only by expenditures made to influence Maine elections;

16. Prohibiting a political action committee from compensating a Legislator or member of the Legislator's immediate family or household for services provided to the committee if the Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of the committee or is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for the committee;

17. Permitting the commission to assess a fine of up to $5,000 if a person spends more than $500 on a paid communication to voters expressly advocating for or against a ballot question if the communication does not contain the name and address of the person who paid for the communication;

18. Requiring a person that spends more than $500 on a prerecorded automated telephone call or scripted live telephone communication expressly advocating for or against a ballot question to clearly state the person's name and address in the call or communication; and

19. Requiring campaign staff and consultants who are compensated for their labor by candidates with $2,000 or more in Maine Clean Election Act funds to create an invoice or timesheet showing the dates of service and number of hours worked, to be kept by the candidate for three years after the election. Goods purchased by a staff member or consultant on behalf of the candidate would not count toward the $2,000 compensation threshold.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-192)

This amendment makes clarifying changes to the bill. It clarifies that prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted live telephone calls that are political communications that are not paid for by a candidate must state whether the communication was authorized by the candidate. It provides that the reporting exemption in the bill that allows for an uncontested primary candidate to be exempt from certain reporting requirements when that candidate files a sworn and notarized notification with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices stating that the candidate will not accept contributions or make expenditures for the primary race does not apply to a Maine Clean Election Act candidate. The amendment strikes a provision in the bill that conflicts with other provisions of campaign laws regarding the termination of campaign requirements. Finally, the amendment adds a new section to the bill that provides that when a political action committee seeks a waiver of a penalty for mitigating circumstances surrounding the failure to file a report or filing a report late, the statement the committee provides does not have to be in the form of a sworn statement. This addition mirrors a section in the bill that makes the same provision for party committees and candidates when they seek a penalty waiver.

LD 1127 **An Act Regarding the Authority of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General To Conduct Investigations of Vote Recounts** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
COOPER BREEN	ONTP	

This bill provides the Secretary of State and the Attorney General authority to conduct investigations during a recount on matters related to the recount. These investigations may include interviews and depositions of witnesses and other investigatory methods determined appropriate by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. It allows the Secretary of State or the Attorney General to initiate a second recount of ballots of any relevant voting district during the recount process if there are inconsistencies compared to the original ballot count or other credible reasons to believe the original count or first recount is not accurate. A decision to seat provisionally or otherwise a candidate whose election is the subject of the recount does not terminate the investigatory authority of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

LD 1138 **An Act Regarding Municipal Reporting of Statewide Elections** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CUSHING	ONTP	

This bill provides for a municipal clerk who fails to update the central voter registration system by entering voter participation history to be warned by the Secretary of State and for the clerk's municipality to publish in a newspaper and its town report notice of that failure. It also, beginning November 8, 2016, makes it a civil violation for a municipal clerk to fail to update the central voter registration system by entering voter participation history for a statewide election by January 1st for the immediately previous general election and by August 1st for the immediately previous primary election. The bill imposes a fine of not more than $50 for each day after January 1st or August 1st that the clerk fails to update the system. It also stipulates that a municipality is not liable for a clerk's failure to update the system.

LD 1176 **An Act To Prohibit the Sale and Possession of Powdered Alcohol in the State** **PUBLIC 205**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DEVIN CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-226

This bill makes the possession, use, sale or furnishing of powdered alcohol a civil violation and a repeat violation of selling or furnishing powdered alcohol a Class E crime that, if committed by a person with a license to sell liquor, subjects the person to a possible suspension of the liquor license for up to one year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-226)

This amendment clarifies that penalties established in the bill for licensees who sell or furnish powdered alcohol in violation of the law apply to nonretail licensees as well as retail licensees and further clarifies that license suspensions are carried out in accordance with the existing suspension process in law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 205 makes the possession, use, sale or furnishing of powdered alcohol a civil violation. It makes a repeat violation of selling or furnishing powdered alcohol a Class E crime that, if committed by a person with a license to sell liquor, subjects the person to a possible suspension of the liquor license for up to one year. Penalties established under chapter 205 for licensees who sell or furnish powdered alcohol in violation of the law apply to nonretail licensees as well as retail licensees. License suspensions as a consequence of such a violation are carried out in accordance with the existing suspension process in law.

LD 1183 **An Act To Strengthen the Craft Distillery Industry in Maine** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WADSWORTH DUTREMBLE	ONTP	

This bill caps the tax the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Liquor and Lottery Commission may levy on spirits produced by a distillery in the State that distills 50,000 gallons per year or less at no more than 18% of the price the State pays the distillery for the spirits. The bill requires that the distillery must use state-grown products, not including water, as a majority of the spirits' substrate, which is the sugary mixture from which alcohol or spirits are distilled.

LD 1189 **An Act To Make Certain Local Primaries Nonpartisan** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KUMIEGA	ONTP	

This bill creates an open, nonpartisan petition and primary process for nomination of candidates for election to the positions of register of probate, district attorney and sheriff. If more than two candidates are qualified for an office through the petition process, an open primary is held in which all voters, regardless of party affiliation, are eligible to vote. The two candidates getting the highest number of votes are then nominated to appear on the general election ballot. If two or fewer candidates are qualified through the petition process, no primary is held and those candidates appear on the general election ballot.

LD 1192 **An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform** **Died Between Houses**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
THIBODEAU	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires public disclosure of political contributions of $250,000 or more during a biennial election cycle by persons to a state-based political action committee, party committee, ballot question committee or candidate. It requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide a voluntary pledge form to political action committees on which they may pledge not to spend money in a Maine Clean Election Act candidate's race and also to post on its publicly accessible website the names of political action committees and the names of an officer of each political action committee and each political action committee's top donor. It amends the law governing political communications to require disclosure of the two highest contributors to a person purchasing a political communication if any such contributor has contributed within the past year at least $10,000 to the person. It requires that a communication by direct mail of 200 pieces or more must contain, in addition to the authorization and name and address required under current law, the names of individuals or businesses that have made aggregate donations of $200,000 or more within the past year to the person making the communication. It requires a political action committee that transfers over $25,000 in the aggregate during a biennial election cycle to another political action committee to pay a fee of one-quarter of that aggregate amount to the Maine Clean Election Fund. It also requires a labor union to send a letter to each of its members within three weeks of an election for Governor, State Senator or State Representative stating which state-based political action committees, party

committees, ballot question committees and candidates the labor union contributed to during the previous biennial election cycle and the total amount of money contributed to each entity and candidate and allows a member to bring suit when a labor union fails to do so.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-154)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, strikes all of the sections of the bill except for the provision that requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide a form to political action committees on which the treasurer or principal officer of a political action committee pledges not to spend money in a Maine Clean Election Act candidate's race. The amendment also clarifies that the pledge is voluntary.

LD 1197 **An Act To Allow Certificate of Approval Holders under the Liquor Licensing Laws To Donate Alcohol to Nonprofit Organizations** **PUBLIC 214**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SAVIELLO BLACK	OTP-AM	S-152

This bill allows certificate of approval holders under the liquor licensing laws to donate a gift certificate to purchase their products or donate their products to an incorporated civic organization for use by the organization as a prize, gift or award. It also allows alcohol producers and wholesalers to provide their products, free of charge or at a reduced price, to a licensee to be served at a licensed on-premises event for the benefit of an incorporated civic organization.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-152)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides examples of charitable or civic purposes within the definition of "incorporated civic organization." Like the bill, the amendment provides that manufacturers and wholesalers may donate malt liquor, wine or spirits to be used as prizes or for auctions to public broadcasting stations, incorporated civic organizations and national organizations with similar purposes to an incorporated civic organization that are 501(c)(3) organizations. Unlike the bill, the amendment provides that these donations may be made without having to provide the donation in the form of a gift card good for the purchase of the alcoholic beverage. The amendment also changes current law by stating that donations may be made to a person who is licensed to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption when the alcohol is being served at an event to benefit an incorporated civic organization in the State or a similarly purposed national 501(c)(3) organization. Current law allows for those donations only to a public broadcasting station or an incorporated civic organization in the State. The amendment also provides that a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to conduct a special taste-testing event may donate its own product to be served at the event.

Finally the amendment provides that when a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the bureau provides product to be served at an event for a licensed incorporated civic organization where alcohol will be consumed on the premises, the manufacturer or wholesaler may serve the product that the manufacturer or wholesaler provided for the event.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 214 provides examples of charitable or civic purposes within the definition of "incorporated civic organization." The law provides that manufacturers and wholesalers may donate malt liquor, wine or spirits to be used as prizes or for auctions to public broadcasting stations, incorporated civic organizations and national organizations with similar purposes to an incorporated civic organization that are 501(c)(3) organizations. It also provides that these donations may be made without having to provide the donation in the form of a gift card good for the purchase of the alcoholic beverage. Chapter 214 changes current law by stating that donations may be made to a person who is licensed to serve alcohol for on-premises consumption when the alcohol

is being served at an event to benefit an incorporated civic organization in the State or a similarly purposed national 501(c)(3) organization, where current law allows for those donations only to a public broadcasting station or an incorporated civic organization in the State.

This law also provides that a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to conduct a special taste-testing event may donate its own product to be served at the event.

Finally, chapter 214 provides that when a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the bureau provides product to be served at an event for a licensed incorporated civic organization where alcohol will be consumed on the premises, the manufacturer or wholesaler may serve the product that the manufacturer or wholesaler provided for the event.

LD 1213 **An Act To Ensure Fair Competition by and between Maine's Commercial Tracks** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
VACHON VOLK	ONTP	

This bill eliminates the deadline for local approval of the operation of slot machines or a casino at a commercial track in the State and allows the commercial track greater latitude in relocating to a municipality that supports the commercial track and harness racing as long as the commercial track does not relocate closer to any existing casino or slot machine facility. The bill also requires that gaming operations be located at the racetrack as part of a fully integrated destination resort and also requires a one-time competitive bidding and fair market value license fee to be determined by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services. The bill provides that most of the revenues distributed from the commercial track are credited to the General Fund.

LD 1219 **An Act To Allow Active Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces Who Are at Least 18 Years of Age and under 21 Years of Age To Consume Alcohol at Eligible Veterans' Organization Posts and American Legion Halls** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
NADEAU VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill allows a person who is at least 18 years of age but under 21 years of age who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or state military forces to be served and consume alcohol on the premises of a veterans' organization founded, chartered or organized in the State that is eligible to receive a beano or bingo license from the Chief of the State Police.

LD 1228 **An Act To Amend the Ballot Initiative Process To Ensure Support in Maine's Congressional Districts** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SHORT DUTREMBLE	ONTP	

This bill provides that the required number of signatures on petitions for the direct initiative of legislation must include a number of signatures of voters registered to vote in each congressional district that is equal to 10% of the

total vote for Governor cast in that congressional district in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of the direct initiative.

LD 1279 **An Act To Authorize Advance Deposit Wagering for Horse Racing** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PICCHIOTTI		

This bill establishes a framework for the conduct of advance deposit wagering on harness and thoroughbred racing. The bill provides that commercial tracks and established off-track betting facilities are eligible for a license to accept wagers made by telephone or electronic communication using advance deposit wagering. Advance deposit wagering is a form of pari-mutuel wagering in which a bettor establishes an account from which wagers on horse races are made and into which prizes are deposited. An advance deposit wager licensee receives a percentage of each wager made using advance deposit wagering. Advance deposit wagering licenses are issued by the State Harness Racing Commission. The bill prescribes the duties of the commission with regard to enforcement and administration of laws and rules that govern advance deposit wagering. The bill also authorizes multijurisdictional account wagering providers from outside the State to provide advance deposit wagering.

This bill was carried over to any regular or special session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 1280 **An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief by Expanding Gaming Opportunities** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PARRY COLLINS		

This bill establishes the Independent Facility Location Commission to solicit bids for the operation of a casino to be located in Cumberland County or York County. The commission must select the best-value bidder to be issued a casino operator license by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for an initial license fee of $5,000,000. The winning bidder must construct a destination resort gaming facility with harness racing, slot machines and table games and a resort that includes a hotel, spa, pool, multiple dining options, entertainment venue, retail space and harness racing track. The casino must be approved by the voters of the county in which it is to be located and by the municipal officers or municipality in which the casino is to be located. The casino operator must enter into an agreement with the municipality where the slot machines are located that provides for revenue sharing or other compensation of at least 3% of the net slot machine income. The limit on the number of slot machines that may be registered in the State is raised from 3,000 to 7,500.

The bill establishes the Income Tax Relief Fund. Allocations from the fund must be made to provide income tax relief to the citizens of this State.

The casino operator must distribute 46% of net slot machine income and 16% of net table game income to the Gambling Control Board for distribution by the board as follows:

1. Two and one-half percent to the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board and for the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund;

2. Twenty percent to supplement harness racing purses;

3. Five percent to the Sire Stakes Fund;

4. Eight and one-half percent to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund;

5. Three percent to the municipality in which the slot machines and table games are located;

6. Five percent to the county in which the slot machines and table games are located;

7. Two percent to the municipalities that abut the municipality in which the slot machines and table games are located;

8. Two and one-half percent to the Fund to Stabilize Off-track Betting Facilities;

9. One and one-half percent to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund; and

10. Fifty percent to the Income Tax Relief Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-491)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment establishes a competitive bid process for the operation of a resort-style casino in either York County or Cumberland County. The amendment establishes the Casino Development Commission, which is an independent board of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission's purpose is to develop a request for proposals for the privilege to submit an application to the Gambling Control Board for a casino operator license. Prior to submitting a request for proposals, either York County or Cumberland County, or both, would have to hold a referendum vote asking voters to allow the operation of a casino in their county. The referendum must be held on the same date as a statewide election no sooner than June 1, 2016 and no later than July 1, 2017. The fee to submit a bid is $250,000. The amendment provides for specific supporting information to be submitted by the bidder and considered by the commission including the bidder's ability to make a minimum $250,000,000 capital investment in the resort-style casino and information regarding job creation, economic development, plans to mitigate negative infrastructure impacts and the bidder's support of the harness racing industry. Under the amendment, the commission is directed to develop a point system for the factors to be considered in evaluating proposals and give priority to proposals that create jobs, promote economic development, increase tourism and support a casino that fits the character of the State. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the casino operator.

The license fee for a casino under the amendment is $25,000,000, of which $5,000,000 is deposited into the General Fund to be used for administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board. The remaining $20,000,000 is deposited into an account to be used to mitigate the impact of lost revenue on the municipalities and a county in which casinos are currently located. The Gambling Control Board will distribute money from the account to the municipalities and county based on distributions the municipalities and county had been receiving from the casino.

If a person initially licensed to operate the casino surrenders the license or the license is revoked, a subsequent licensee may operate the casino only for the remainder of the license term and is subject to a $500,000 transfer fee. A subsequent licensee is subject to the contract executed when the casino in either York County or Cumberland County was initially licensed.

The amendment sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue at 46% and the distribution of net table game revenue at 16% for the resort-style casino. The amendment provides for various recipients of slot machine revenue and requires table game revenue to be deposited to the Fund to Reform Veterans Services, which is established by the amendment to facilitate a coordinated delivery system of benefits and services to veterans in the State.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-492)

This amendment replaces the bill and is a minority report of the committee. The amendment establishes a competitive bid process for the operation of a resort-style casino in either York County or Cumberland County. The amendment establishes the Casino Development Commission, which is an independent board of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission's purpose is to develop a request for proposals for the privilege to submit an application to the Gambling Control Board for a casino operator license. The fee to submit a bid is $250,000. The amendment provides for specific supporting information to be submitted by the bidder and considered by the commission including the bidder's ability to make a minimum $250,000,000 capital investment in the resort-style casino and information regarding job creation, economic development and plans to mitigate negative infrastructure impacts. Under the amendment, the commission is directed to develop a point system for the factors to be considered and give priority to factors that create jobs, promote economic development, increase tourism and support a casino that fits the character of the State, with job creation and economic development being the highest priorities. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the operator.

The license fee for a casino under the amendment is $10,000,000, which is deposited into an account to be used to mitigate the impact of lost revenue on the municipalities and a county in which casinos are currently located due to the operation of the new resort-style casino. Under the amendment, the Gambling Control Board will distribute money from the account to the municipalities and county based on past distribution amounts the municipalities and county had been receiving from the casino, with the intent of maintaining the same revenue stream.

The amendment sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue at 40% and the distribution of net table game revenue at 16% for the resort-style casino. Table game revenues would be deposited into a fund to develop a coordinated system of delivery of services and benefits to Maine veterans. Upon operation of slot machines at the resort-style casino, the board will hold distributions required of existing casinos until the Legislature establishes a single distribution structure that would apply to all casinos in the State.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Finally, the amendment makes enactment of this bill contingent upon the approval of the voters of the State at a statewide referendum election.

Committee Amendment "C" (H-493)

This amendment replaces the bill and is a minority report of the committee. The amendment establishes a competitive bid process for the operation of a resort-style casino in either York County or Cumberland County. The amendment establishes the Casino Development Commission, which is an independent board of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission's purpose is to develop a request for proposals for the privilege to submit an application to the Gambling Control Board for a casino operator license. Prior to submitting a request for proposals, either York County or Cumberland County, or both, would have to hold a referendum vote asking voters to allow the operation of a casino in their county. The referendum must be held on the same date as a statewide election no sooner than June 1, 2016 and no later than July 1, 2017. The fee to submit a bid is $250,000. The amendment provides for specific supporting information to be submitted by the bidder and considered by the commission including the bidder's ability to make a minimum $250,000,000 capital investment in the resort-style casino and information regarding job creation, economic development, plans to mitigate negative infrastructure impacts and the bidder's support of the harness racing industry. Under the amendment, the commission is directed to develop a point system for the factors to be considered in evaluating proposals and give priority to proposals that create jobs, promote economic development, increase tourism and support a casino that fits the character of the State. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the casino operator.

The license fee for a casino under the amendment is $25,000,000, of which $5,000,000 is deposited into the General Fund to be used for administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board. The remaining $20,000,000 is deposited into an account to be used to mitigate the impact of lost revenue on the municipalities and a county in which casinos are currently located. The Gambling Control Board will distribute money from the account to the municipalities and county based on distributions the municipalities and county had been receiving from the casino.

If a person initially licensed to operate the casino surrenders the license or the license is revoked, a subsequent licensee may operate the casino only for the remainder of the license term and is subject to a $500,000 transfer fee. A subsequent licensee is subject to the contract executed when the casino in either York County or Cumberland County was initially licensed.

The amendment sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue at 40% and the distribution of net table game revenue at 16% for the resort-style casino. The amendment provides for various recipients of slot machine revenue and requires table game revenue to be deposited to the Fund to Reform Veterans Services, which is established by the amendment to facilitate a coordinated delivery system of benefits and services to veterans in the State. Upon operation of slot machines at the resort-style casino, the board will hold distributions required of existing casinos until the Legislature establishes a single distribution structure that would apply to all casinos in the State.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Committee Amendment "D" (H-494)

This amendment replaces the bill and is a minority report of the committee. The amendment establishes a competitive bid process for the operation of a resort-style casino in either York County or Cumberland County. The amendment establishes the Casino Development Commission, which is an independent board of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission's purpose is to develop a request for proposals for the privilege to submit an application to the Gambling Control Board for a casino operator license. The fee to submit a bid is $250,000. The amendment provides for specific supporting information to be submitted by the bidder and considered by the commission including the bidder's ability to make a minimum $250,000,000 capital investment in the resort-style casino and information regarding job creation, economic development and plans to mitigate negative infrastructure impacts. Under the amendment, the commission is directed to develop a point system for the factors to be considered and give priority to factors that create jobs, promote economic development, increase tourism and support a casino that fits the character of the State. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the operator.

The license fee for a casino under the amendment is $50,000,000, of which $5,000,000 is deposited with the Gambling Control Board and $15,000,000 is deposited into the General Fund. The remaining $30,000,000 is deposited into an account to be used to mitigate the impact of lost revenue on the municipalities and a county in which casinos are currently located. If an existing casino closes, the Gambling Control Board will distribute money from the account to the municipalities and county based on distributions the municipality or county had been receiving from the casino.

If a person initially licensed to operate the casino surrenders the license or the license is revoked, a subsequent licensee may operate the casino only for the remainder of the license term and is subject to a $500,000 transfer fee. A subsequent licensee is subject to the contract executed when the casino in either York County or Cumberland County was initially licensed.

The amendment sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue at 40% and the distribution of net table game revenue at 16% for the resort-style casino. Upon commencement of table game operations at a casino in York County or Cumberland County, a single distribution of slot machine and table game revenue will be applied to all casinos in the State. The amendment authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to

submit legislation developing this distribution of revenue and provides a list of funds and programs that are required to be included in that distribution.

Finally, the amendment makes enactment of this bill contingent upon the approval of the voters of the State at a statewide referendum held in November 2016.

This bill was reported out of committee, then committed back to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 994 as amended by H-504.

LD 1283 **An Act To Stimulate Economic Development and Create Jobs by Amending the Laws Governing Gaming** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
VALENTINO RUSSELL	ONTP	

This bill establishes five regions in the State for the operation of casinos. Region 1 includes York County and the Town of Scarborough in Cumberland County. Region 2 includes Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford and Cumberland counties, with the exception of the Town of Scarborough in Cumberland County. Region 3 includes Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Knox counties. Region 4 includes Washington and Hancock counties. Region 5 includes Aroostook and Piscataquis counties. If a region does not have a casino or if an existing casino ceases operation, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services is required to administer a competitive bid process for the privilege to operate a casino, subject to application to and investigation by the Gambling Control Board.

Bids in Region 1 are granted preference if the bidder is associated with the operator of an existing commercial harness racing track in that region. Bids in Regions 4 and 5 are given preference if the operator is associated with a federally recognized Indian tribe eligible to conduct high-stakes beano in that region. The bill provides for a staggered schedule for the authorization of casinos in regions where casinos are not currently operated. The bill provides for minimum bids and requirements for a minimum number of slot machines, table games and other amenities at a facility in each region. Each bidder is also required to submit a nonrefundable privilege fee intended to mitigate the costs of administering the competitive bid process by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and meet the costs of background checks and investigations conducted by the Gambling Control Board. The bill establishes distribution of table game and slot machine revenue for casinos and specifies that the revenue must be used for the purposes specifically described unless otherwise authorized. This distribution will apply to all casinos and slot machine facilities operated in the State as soon as a casino in Region 1 is authorized via the competitive bid process. If an alternative purpose is authorized for the table game or slot machine revenue, all distributions must be reduced in equal proportion.

LD 1289 **An Act To Allow Retail Liquor Licensees To Sell Alcoholic Beverages for On-premises and Off-premises Consumption at One Location** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRAKEY TURNER	ONTP OTP	

This bill provides that a retail establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption may also be licensed as a Class A restaurant or an establishment licensed to sell beer and wine for consumption on the premises as long as alcoholic beverages are served as individual servings by an employee of the on-premises

establishment. This bill repeals the existing dual liquor license provision in law.

LD 1290 **An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act and Direct the Savings To Be Used for the State's Contribution toward the Costs of Education Funding** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRAKEY LOCKMAN	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill, which takes effect January 1, 2016, repeals the Maine Clean Election Act and transfers the remaining balance in the Maine Clean Election Fund to the Department of Education to be used for the State's contribution toward the costs of education funding. This bill also corrects the numerous cross-references to the Maine Clean Election Act in the Maine Revised Statutes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-266)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, removes the section of the bill that states that money in the Maine Clean Election Fund must be used to support education funding. It also makes the repeal of the Maine Clean Election Act contingent upon approval of the voters of the State by referendum.

LD 1292 **An Act To Allow for Super Cribbage Tournaments** **PUBLIC 163**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WARD	OTP-AM	H-266

This bill authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue up to three licenses per year for the conduct of a super cribbage tournament.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-266)

This amendment imposes a $75 license fee on super cribbage tournaments and requires that 50% of proceeds from the tournament be paid to a charitable organization. The amendment also reduces the minimum number of players required to hold a tournament from 75 to 50 and sets a maximum entry fee of $100. Finally, the amendment provides that this license provision is repealed September 30, 2017.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 163 authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue up to three super cribbage tournament licenses annually. It imposes a $75 license fee on super cribbage tournaments and requires that 50% of proceeds from the tournament be paid to a charitable organization. Chapter 163 also reduces the minimum number of players required to hold a tournament from 75 to 50 and sets a maximum entry fee of $100. Finally, the law provides that this license provision is repealed September 30, 2017.

LD 1331 **An Act To Provide Enhanced Enforcement of the Laws Governing Alcoholic Beverages** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-373

This bill provides a definition of "liquor inspector" and provides that the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may require liquor inspectors to receive law enforcement training as a condition of employment. The bill also requires the director to ensure that no less than one-third of the liquor inspector positions under the bureau include a requirement that the liquor inspector must complete law enforcement training.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-373)

This amendment retains the provisions of the bill but requires the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to hire five new liquor inspectors, three of whom must be trained law enforcement officers. The amendment provides an appropriations and allocations section to fund those positions and requires the bureau to report by March 1, 2017 on changes and enhancements to liquor enforcement efforts.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 555.

LD 1335 **An Act To Amend the Election Laws** **Veto Sustained**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LUCHINI CYRWAY	OTP-AM	H-251

This bill makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It adds a restriction that a registrar may not serve during an election when an immediate family member of the registrar is a candidate for federal office, and clarifies the language regarding compensation. The restriction previously applied only for candidates for state, local or county offices.

2. It removes the provision regarding the use of a supplemental incoming voting list.

3. It updates the list of the outside agencies that must provide voter registration pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

4. It provides that a primary election for State Senator, State Representative or county office will only be held when there is more than one candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent; when there is at least one candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent and at least one candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate; or when there is no candidate who has filed a candidate petition and consent but there is at least one candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate. Otherwise, a party candidate is nominated to the general election ballot based on acceptance of a primary petition.

5. It provides that the written acceptance for a replacement candidate must include a place for the registrar of the candidate's municipality of residence to certify the candidate's registration and enrollment status.

6. It changes the deadline for a candidate to withdraw from 60 days to 75 days before a primary or general election and allows for a replacement candidate. It also specifies that the candidate may withdraw only for good cause and must include that reason in the written notice of withdrawal filed with the Secretary of State.

7. It changes the deadline from 60 days to 75 days before the general election for a nonparty candidate for Vice President to withdraw and allow for a replacement candidate.

8. It provides that if a candidate or nominee for a federal or gubernatorial office withdraws less than 75 days before any election, the Secretary of State is not required to produce new ballots.

9. It clarifies that a candidate may withdraw after the withdrawal deadline if the candidate is incapacitated by a catastrophic condition or injury and allows for a replacement candidate. Current law provides for a candidate's withdrawal only for incapacitation due to a catastrophic illness.

10. It adds the restriction that a municipal clerk may not serve as the supervisor of an election when a member of the municipal clerk's immediate family is a candidate for federal, state, county or local office.

11. It changes the date from 30 days to 60 days prior to an election by which the municipal clerk must file a voting place report that includes the location of each voting place, the poll opening time and the number of voting booths to be used.

12. It clarifies the voting procedure by combining the steps of checking voter names on the incoming voting list and giving the ballot to the voter in the same provision of law. It prohibits the practice of handing out the ballot at a separate location from the incoming voting list.

13. It clarifies that it is a violation of law to display, as well as distribute, campaign materials within 250 feet of the voting place or the registrar's office.

14. It specifies that it is a violation of law to communicate in the voting place via text messages or e-mails that influence or attempt to influence another person's decision regarding a candidate or question on the ballot that election day.

15. It provides for a civil violation punishable by a fine for each day the municipal clerk is late in filing an election return after the election.

16. It changes the filing deadline for a declaration of write-in candidacy from 45 days to 70 days before the election.

17. It permits the Secretary of State to retrieve ballots from certain voting jurisdictions and conduct recounts of statewide or multi-county offices or referenda in stages, rather than requiring all the ballots to be retrieved at once.

18. It clarifies that an apparent winning candidate may request a recount if the official tabulation of the vote communicated to the Governor after a recount shows that candidate as the losing candidate.

19. It decreases the percentage difference required, from 2% to 1% or less of the total votes cast for the office, in order to receive a recount without requiring a deposit.

20. It provides that a municipality may opt to process absentee ballots as early as the fourth day before the election. It also authorizes the Secretary of State to make available high-speed ballot tabulators for absentee ballots and to allow a municipality to bring absentee ballots to a state-designated central location for tabulating by the high-speed ballot tabulators as long as security guidelines are properly followed.

21. It allows the Secretary of State to accept voted absentee ballots from uniformed service voters and overseas voters by an electronic means authorized by the Secretary of State.

22. It allows for the connection of individual voting devices to a central server operated or managed by the Secretary of State for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities by other than a wired, point-to-point telephone connection.

23. It allows for the use of the Internet to provide a ballot-marking system or software that is used for voters with disabilities, uniformed service voters or overseas voters to mark a ballot and transmit the marked ballot online, as long as the system or software does not tabulate the ballots or transmit the ballot tabulations online.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-251)

This amendment strikes the provision in the bill that requires nomination by primary election for State Senate, State House of Representatives and county offices only when the party nomination is contested. In its place, the amendment provides that, when an elected office has no candidate nominated by petition or a declared write-in candidate, the office is not required to be printed on the primary ballot. The bill requires that withdrawal of a candidate for a primary or general election would have to be for good cause, defined by the bill, and by a prescribed deadline in order to have the candidate's name removed from the ballot and a replacement candidate nominated. The amendment removes the good cause provision but maintains the earlier deadline of 75 days before the election, which is an increase from the 60-day deadline in current law. The bill provides that a municipal clerk may be subject to a civil violation of $50 per day for each day beyond the required date that election returns are not submitted to the Secretary of State. The amendment applies that civil penalty to the municipality. The amendment retains the provision in the bill that clarifies that a candidate may withdraw after the withdrawal deadline if the candidate is incapacitated by a catastrophic condition or injury; however, the amendment requires a withdrawal request to be accompanied by a certificate signed by a licensed physician instead of at least two physicians.

LD 1343 **An Act To Increase Access to Postsecondary Education for Maine National Guard Members** **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FREDETTE WHITTEMORE	OTP-AM	H-364

This bill provides for a tuition waiver for 100% of tuition costs at any state postsecondary education institution for qualified members of the Maine National Guard.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-364)

This amendment establishes the Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund and appropriates $500,000 per year of the next biennium to the fund. It amends existing law regarding education assistance grants to Maine National Guard members to govern the distribution of the tuition benefit provided by the bill. Under the bill, tuition assistance is provided in the form of waivers from a state postsecondary education institution. The amendment provides that the Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund will provide for 100% of an eligible member's tuition costs. If the tuition benefit costs exceed the amount in the fund, the amendment states that the benefit will be provided in the form of a waiver from the state postsecondary education institution. The amendment clarifies that tuition does not include lab fees or other mandatory fees charged to students. The amendment specifies that the benefit entitles a member to one postsecondary education credential, whether it be at the associate, baccalaureate, certificate or licensure level. The amendment specifies that a member must first pursue all other state, federal and employer-provided benefits available and have not previously earned a bachelor's degree in order to qualify for the tuition benefit proposed by the bill. The amendment also strikes provisions in the bill that would eliminate certain potential sources of revenue to be used for education assistance for members of the Maine National Guard.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by Joint Order, S.P. 555.

LD 1346 **An Act To Establish a Comprehensive Gaming Policy** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RUSSELL VALENTINO	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue two casino licenses, one in the southern region of the State, which includes York County and Cumberland County, and one in the northern region of the State, which includes Penobscot County, Washington County and Aroostook County. In order to be eligible to apply for a casino license, an applicant must be awarded the privilege to submit an application pursuant to a competitive bidding process. The competitive bidding process is administered by a site location commission established by this bill. The Casino Site Location Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over casino gaming and confirmation by the Senate. The bill provides that commission members may not have a conflict of interest and are prohibited from representing or being employed by gambling interests during their term on the commission and for five years after their term ends.

Under the bill, a successful bidder for a casino in the southern region of the State must propose a capital investment of at least $250,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a southern region casino is $5,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a $250,000 application fee and $100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a southern region casino is $250,000.

A successful bidder for a casino in the northern region of the State must propose a minimum capital investment of $25,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a northern region casino is $1,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a $100,000 application fee and a $100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a northern region casino is $100,000.

The bill provides factors that the commission is directed to consider when reviewing bids for the privilege to submit an application to operate a casino. Examples of those factors include: how the proposal from a bidder will result in the highest potential benefit to the State based on documented, expert market analyses, the potential of the proposed facility to serve as a tourism destination and how the proposal will preserve existing jobs and preserve new full-time jobs in the State. For a casino bid in the southern region, the commission must consider the bidder's experience operating a commercial harness racing track and how the casino will benefit the harness racing industry and associated businesses. For the casino bid in the northern region, the commission is directed to consider how the proposal will provide the greatest benefit to one or all of the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State, particularly by proposing operation and ownership by one or more of the tribes. With regard to the location of a northern region casino, the commission is directed to consider either the proposed facility's proximity to the Canadian border and major transportation routes or whether it will be located where gaming is currently conducted by a federally recognized Indian tribe regardless of whether that facility will be within 30 miles of a casino licensed prior to January 1, 2015.

Finally, the bill provides that the required revenue distributions from casinos licensed before January 1, 2015 be held by the Gambling Control Board until a uniform distribution structure of slot machine and table game revenue is enacted by the Legislature.

LD 1357 **An Act To Implement the Findings of the WhiteSand Gaming Study** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KINNEY J VOLK	ONTP	

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to issue two casino licenses, one in the southern region of the State, which includes York County and Cumberland County, and one in the northern region of the State, which includes Penobscot County, Washington County and Aroostook County. In order to be eligible to apply for a casino license, an applicant must be awarded the privilege to submit an application pursuant to a competitive bidding process. The competitive bidding process is administered by a site location commission established by this bill. The Casino Site Location Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over casino gaming and confirmation by the Senate. The bill provides that commission members may not have a conflict of interest and are prohibited from representing or being employed by gambling interests during their term on the commission and for five years after their term ends.

Under the bill, a successful bidder for a casino in the southern region of the State must propose a capital investment of at least $250,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a southern region casino is $5,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a $250,000 application fee and $100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a southern region casino is $250,000.

A successful bidder for a casino in the northern region of the State must propose a minimum capital investment of $25,000,000 exclusive of license fees, land acquisition and off-site improvements. The initial fee for a northern region casino is $1,000,000 for a five year license term in addition to a $100,000 application fee and a $100,000 investigative fee. The renewal fee for a northern region casino is $100,000.

The bill provides factors that the commission is directed to consider when reviewing bids for the privilege to submit an application to operate a casino. Examples of those factors include: how the proposal from a bidder will result in the highest potential benefit to the State based on documented, expert market analyses, the potential of the proposed facility to serve as a tourism destination and how the proposal will preserve existing jobs and create new full-time jobs in the State. For the casino bid in the northern region, the commission is directed to consider how the proposal will provide the greatest benefit to one or all of the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State, particularly by proposing operation and ownership by one or more of the tribes.

Finally, the bill authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to submit a bill establishing a uniform distribution structure for slot machine and table game revenue to the Legislature.

LD 1429 **An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding On-premises and Off-premises Liquor Licenses** **PUBLIC 162**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted

This bill was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to joint order, H.P. 954.

This bill removes the provision in law that repeals the authority for a single location, under certain conditions, to have a license to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption in one area of the establishment and a license to

sell beer and wine for off-premises consumption in a separate area of the establishment.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 162 removes the provision in law that repeals the authority for a single location, under certain conditions, to have a license to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption in one area of the establishment and a license to sell beer and wine for off-premises consumption in a separate area of the establishment.

LD 1436 **An Act To Better Serve the Seasonal Tourist Market during the 2015 Summer Season and Early Autumn with a Pilot Program To Extend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Served**

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KINNEY J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill establishes a pilot program that terminates October 12, 2015, Columbus Day, to extend the hours for the sale of liquor for on-premises consumption from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-446)

Under the bill, on-premises licensees are permitted to sell liquor until 2 a.m. regardless of any local option decisions to the contrary. This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, provides that a municipality may prohibit sales after 1 a.m. if the legislative body of the municipality votes for the restriction and notifies the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations of that decision.

LD 1446 **An Act To Authorize a Casino To Benefit Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the State**

Died Between Houses

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
	OTP ONTP	

This bill was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 111, section 3. The bill establishes a competitive bid process for a casino in either Washington County or Aroostook County, the operation of which is stated to maximize economic and employment benefits for the four federally recognized Indian tribes in the State. The bill establishes the Casino Development Commission, which is an independent board of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission's purpose is to develop a request for proposals for the privilege to submit an application to the Gambling Control Board for a casino operator license. Prior to the commission's submitting a request for proposals for a casino operator license in either Washington County or Aroostook County, voters would have to approve the operation of a casino by a countywide referendum. The referendum must be held on the same date as a statewide election and no sooner than June 1, 2016 and no later than July 1, 2017. The fee to submit a bid to the commission is $100,000.

The bill provides for specific supporting information to be submitted by the bidder and considered by the commission including the bidder's ability to make a minimum $20,000,000 capital investment in the casino and partnership with at least two federally recognized Indian tribes in the State.

Under the bill, the commission is directed to develop a point system for the factors to be considered in evaluating proposals and give priority to proposals that maximize the employment and economic benefits to federally

recognized Indian tribes in the State. The winning bidder must enter into a contract with the commission that obligates the casino operator to abide by the proposals made in the winning bid. Failure to abide by the terms of the contract could result in financial penalties to the operator.

The license fee for a casino under the bill is $1,000,000 for a five year term with a renewal fee of $100,000.

The bill sets the distribution of net slot machine revenue for the casino at 46% and sets the distribution of net table game revenue for the casino at 16%. The bill authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to submit legislation establishing a distribution of the slot machine and table game revenue required to be paid by the casino.

LD 1449 **An Act To Amend the State Election Laws** **PUBLIC 350**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
		S-336 CYRWAY

This bill was reported out of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to joint order, S.P. 551.

This bill makes the following changes to the election laws.

1. It allows the Secretary of State to accept voted absentee ballots from uniformed service voters and overseas voters by an electronic means authorized by the Secretary of State.

2. It allows for the connection of individual voting devices to a central server operated or managed by the Secretary of State for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities by other than a wired, point-to-point telephone connection.

3. It allows for the use of the Internet to provide a ballot-marking system or software that is used for voters with disabilities, uniformed service voters or overseas voters to mark a ballot and transmit the marked ballot online, as long as the system or software does not tabulate the ballots or transmit the ballot tabulations online.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-336)

This amendment amends the laws governing campaign finance and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

1. Current law requires a traditionally financed legislative candidate to file a declaration stating whether or not the candidate will accept voluntary spending limits. This amendment makes that filing optional.

2. It provides an exemption from filing primary election campaign finance reports for legislative candidates who file a sworn statement with the commission stating that they will not conduct financial activity for the primary election. This exemption is available only to candidates with no opponent in the primary election and does not exempt candidates from filing campaign finance reports for the general election.

3. Under current law a person, party committee or political action committee must file a report when making an independent expenditure in excess of $100 in a candidate's campaign. This amendment raises that threshold for reporting to $250.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 350 makes changes to the laws governing elections and the laws governing campaign

finance and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

1. Current law requires a traditionally financed legislative candidate to file a declaration stating whether or not the candidate will accept voluntary spending limits. Chapter 350 makes that filing optional.

2. It provides an exemption from filing primary election campaign finance reports for legislative candidates who file a sworn statement with the commission stating that they will not conduct financial activity for the primary election. This exemption is available only to candidates with no opponent in the primary election and does not exempt candidates from filing campaign finance reports for the general election.

3. Under current law a person, party committee or political action committee must file a report when making an independent expenditure in excess of $100 in a candidate's campaign. Chapter 350 raises that threshold for reporting to $250.

4. It allows the Secretary of State to accept voted absentee ballots from uniformed service voters and overseas voters by an electronic means authorized by the Secretary of State.

5. It allows for the connection of individual voting devices to a central server operated or managed by the Secretary of State for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities by other than a wired, point-to-point telephone connection.

6. It allows for the use of the Internet to provide a ballot-marking system or software that is used for voters with disabilities, uniformed service voters or overseas voters to mark a ballot and transmit the marked ballot online, as long as the system or software does not tabulate the ballots or transmit the ballot tabulations online.

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

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Alcoholic Beverages

Enacted

LD 102	An Act To Strengthen the Craft Beer Industry	PUBLIC 15
LD 364	An Act To Allow a Sales Representative To Serve Alcoholic Beverages at a Tasting Event	PUBLIC 129 EMERGENCY
LD 508	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality	PUBLIC 128
LD 511	An Act To Permit a Licensed Sales Representative To Provide Spirits at an Approved Tasting Event	PUBLIC 184
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LD 761	An Act To Authorize Free Samples of Liquor by a Restaurant	PUBLIC 142
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LD 1176	An Act To Prohibit the Sale and Possession of Powdered Alcohol in the State	PUBLIC 205
LD 1197	An Act To Allow Certificate of Approval Holders under the Liquor Licensing Laws To Donate Alcohol to Nonprofit Organizations	PUBLIC 214
LD 1429	An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding On-premises and Off-premises Liquor Licenses	PUBLIC 162

Not Enacted

LD 122	An Act To Standardize Pints of Beer Sold in Maine	Veto Sustained
LD 366	An Act Regarding the Sale and Taxation of Hard Cider	ONTP

LD 510	An Act To Increase the Number of Container Options for Breweries	ONTP
LD 618	An Act To Facilitate the Production of Hard Cider in Maine	ONTP
LD 678	An Act Concerning the Ability of On-premises Liquor Licensees To Dispense Liquor in Sealed Refillable Containers	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 777	An Act To Establish a Seasonal Agency Liquor License	ONTP
LD 923	An Act To Create Jobs and Increase Consumer Wine Choice	ONTP
LD 986	An Act To Streamline Certain Regulations on Small Distilleries	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1083	An Act To Facilitate the Use of Half-gallon Containers for Malt Liquor at Maine Brew Pubs	ONTP
LD 1183	An Act To Strengthen the Craft Distillery Industry in Maine	ONTP
LD 1219	An Act To Allow Active Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces Who Are at Least 18 Years of Age and under 21 Years of Age To Consume Alcohol at Eligible Veterans' Organization Posts and American Legion Halls	ONTP
LD 1289	An Act To Allow Retail Liquor Licensees To Sell Alcoholic Beverages for On-premises and Off-premises Consumption at One Location	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1331	An Act To Provide Enhanced Enforcement of the Laws Governing Alcoholic Beverages	CARRIED OVER
LD 1436	An Act To Better Serve the Seasonal Tourist Market during the 2015 Summer Season and Early Autumn with a Pilot Program To Extend the Authorized Hours during Which Liquor May Be Served	Majority (ONTP) Report

Beano and Games of Chance

Enacted

LD 270	An Act To Temporarily Reduce the Annual High-stakes Beano Fee from $50,000 to $25,000	PUBLIC 24 EMERGENCY
LD 1292	An Act To Allow for Super Cribbage Tournaments	PUBLIC 163

Not Enacted

LD 762	An Act To Permit the Penobscot Nation To Operate Electronic High-stakes Bingo	ONTP

Campaign Finance and Maine Clean Election Act

Enacted

LD 174	An Act To Amend the Maine Clean Election Act Regarding Candidate Participation in Political Action Committees	PUBLIC 116

Not Enacted

LD 15	An Act To Increase Transparency in Campaign Funding in Legislative Elections	ONTP

LD 33	An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act, Improve Disclosure and Make Other Changes to the Campaign Finance Laws	INDEF PP
LD 53	An Act To Require Shareholder Consent for Corporate Political Contributions	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 175	An Act To Limit Maine Clean Election Act Funding to First-time Candidates	ONTP
LD 189	An Act To Prohibit Undisclosed Political Spending	ONTP
LD 204	An Act To Prohibit Certain Activities by Maine Clean Election Act Candidates	ONTP
LD 298	An Act To Require Political Action Committees To Report the Receipt of Paid Services Received from State Agencies	Veto Sustained
LD 334	An Act To Improve the Maine Clean Election Act	ONTP
LD 383	An Act Requiring Corporations To Have Approval from a Majority of Their Shareholders before Making Political Contributions Valued at Greater Than $5,000	ONTP
LD 532	An Act To Prohibit Maine Clean Election Act Candidates from Accepting Special Interest Money through a Political Party or Political Action Committee	ONTP
LD 617	An Act To Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits	Died Between Houses
LD 619	An Act To Limit the Participation of Candidates and Legislators in Political Action Committees and Nonprofit Entities Conducting Political Activities	ONTP
LD 719	An Act To Provide Fair Access To Maine Clean Election Act Funds	ONTP
LD 806	An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act, Improve Disclosure and Make Other Changes to the Campaign Finance Laws	INDEF PP
LD 904	An Act To Increase Fairness in Campaign Financing	CARRIED OVER
LD 1067	An Act To Protect the Maine Clean Election Fund	ONTP
LD 1123	An Act To Amend the Campaign Reports and Finances Laws and the Maine Clean Election Act	Veto Sustained
LD 1192	An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform	Died Between Houses
LD 1290	An Act To Repeal the Maine Clean Election Act and Direct the Savings To Be Used for the State's Contribution toward the Costs of Education Funding	Majority (ONTP) Report

Campaign Practices

Not Enacted

LD 412	An Act Regarding Telephonic Political Communications and Push Polling	Died Between Houses
LD 964	An Act To Provide Access to Private Apartment Complexes for Political Candidates	ONTP

Claims Against the State

Not Enacted

LD 184	An Act To Reimburse Philip Wolley for Litigation Expenses Incurred in Connection with His Termination and Reinstatement as a State Employee	ONTP
LD 805	Resolve, Authorizing Certain Individuals To Bring Suit against the Department of Health and Human Services	CARRIED OVER

Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

Enacted

LD 693	An Act To Amend the Military Bureau Laws	PUBLIC 120

Elections

Enacted

LD 626	An Act Regarding Write-in Candidates in Municipal and City Elections	PUBLIC 160
LD 858	An Act To Better Inform the Public of Election Results	PUBLIC 146
LD 1449	An Act To Amend the State Election Laws	PUBLIC 350

Not Enacted

LD 507	An Act To Allow Primary Petition Signature Requirements To Be Proportional with Party Enrollment	ONTP
LD 509	An Act To Facilitate the Timely Return of Requested Absentee Ballots	ONTP
LD 585	An Act Regarding the Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to Election Day	ONTP
LD 677	An Act To Amend the Election Laws Concerning Candidates and Nominees	ONTP
LD 720	An Act To Establish an Open Primary System in the State	ONTP
LD 744	An Act To Permit Unenrolled Voters To Cast Ballots in Primary Elections	ONTP
LD 850	An Act To Establish Special Elections To Fill United States Senate Vacancies	ONTP
LD 1127	An Act Regarding the Authority of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General To Conduct Investigations of Vote Recounts	ONTP
LD 1138	An Act Regarding Municipal Reporting of Statewide Elections	ONTP
LD 1189	An Act To Make Certain Local Primaries Nonpartisan	ONTP
LD 1335	An Act To Amend the Election Laws	Veto Sustained

Gambling

Not Enacted

LD 1279	An Act To Authorize Advance Deposit Wagering for Horse Racing	CARRIED OVER

Harness Racing and Off-track Betting

Enacted

LD 838	An Act To Enhance Equity and Efficiency for Off-track Betting Facilities	PUBLIC 200

Initiatives and Referenda

Enacted

LD 176	An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda	PUBLIC 99 EMERGENCY

Not Enacted

LD 145	An Act To Amend the Verification and Certification Process for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda	ONTP
LD 225	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Collection of Signatures for Referenda	ONTP
LD 742	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That 5 Percent of Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each County	CARRIED OVER
LD 754	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Ensure That Laws Governing Hunting and Fishing Are Not Subject to the Citizen Petition Process	ONTP
LD 790	An Act To Make Political Advertising Accountable and Transparent	ONTP
LD 837	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit the Application of a Citizen Initiative Concerning Wildlife Matters to Counties in Which It Is Approved	Leave to Withdraw
LD 990	An Act To Limit Agency Expenditures To Influence Elections	ONTP
LD 1084	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Exclude Wildlife Issues from Citizen Initiatives	ONTP
LD 1228	An Act To Amend the Ballot Initiative Process To Ensure Support in Maine's Congressional Districts	ONTP

Lobbying and Lobbyists

Not Enacted

LD 370	An Act To Amend the Lobbyist Disclosure Procedures Law	Died On Adjournment

Lottery

Enacted

LD 516	An Act Regarding Gaming	PUBLIC 96 EMERGENCY

Maine National Guard

Not Enacted

LD 1343	An Act To Increase Access to Postsecondary Education for Maine National Guard Members	CARRIED OVER

Slot Machines and Gambling

Not Enacted

LD 104	An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Veterans' Organizations	Leave to Withdraw
LD 555	An Act To Distribute a Portion of Proceeds from the Oxford Casino to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Leave to Withdraw
LD 620	An Act To Allow Veterans' Organizations To Own and Operate Slot Machines	ONTP
LD 1066	An Act To Provide for the Licensing of a Casino Owned by the Maliseet Tribal Government on Tribal Lands in Aroostook County	ONTP
LD 1213	An Act To Ensure Fair Competition by and between Maine's Commercial Tracks	ONTP
LD 1280	An Act To Provide Income Tax Relief by Expanding Gaming Opportunities	CARRIED OVER
LD 1283	An Act To Stimulate Economic Development and Create Jobs by Amending the Laws Governing Gaming	ONTP
LD 1346	An Act To Establish a Comprehensive Gaming Policy	ONTP
LD 1357	An Act To Implement the Findings of the WhiteSand Gaming Study	ONTP
LD 1446	An Act To Authorize a Casino To Benefit Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the State	Died Between Houses

Veterans

Enacted

LD 74	Resolve, To Require the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services To Make Recommendations To Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members	RESOLVE 19
LD 378	An Act To Facilitate the Issuance of a Gravestone for a Deceased Veteran with No Next of Kin	PUBLIC 208
LD 694	An Act To Improve the Veterans' Services Laws	PUBLIC 175

LD 721	Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans	RESOLVE 48 EMERGENCY

Not Enacted

LD 804	An Act To Establish the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee	ONTP
LD 997	An Act To Streamline Licensing Requirements for and Payments from Veterans' Organizations	CARRIED OVER
LD 1111	An Act To Provide Funding to Municipalities To Assist with the Maintenance of Veterans' Graves	ONTP

Voting

Not Enacted

LD 197	An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Died Between Houses
LD 413	An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots	Minority (ONTP) Report
LD 770	An Act To Permit Maine Residents To Register To Vote Online	ONTP