

**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2026

**STAFF:**

RACHEL OLSON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, CHAIR  
SEN. JILL C. DUSON  
SEN. JEFFREY L. TIMBERLAKE

REP. LAURA D. SUPICA, CHAIR  
REP. SEAN FAIRCLOTH  
REP. ANNE P. GRAHAM  
REP. MARC G. MALON, II  
REP. PARNELL WILLIAM TERRY  
REP. DAVID W. BOYER, JR.  
REP. ANN FREDERICKS  
REP. QUENTIN J. CHAPMAN  
REP. BENJAMIN C. HYMES  
REP. SHARON C. FROST

# *Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

## **SUBJECT INDEX**

### **Alcoholic Beverages, Administration**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2155	An Act to Exempt, for Licenses Issued Prior to December 21, 2025, Persons Holding a Majority Ownership Interest from the Restriction on the Number of Manufacturing Facility Licenses and On-premises Retail Licenses	PUBLIC 772
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1855	An Act to Repeal the Low-alcohol Spirits Product Tax	Died On Adjournment

### **Alcoholic Beverages, Regulation**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 2160	An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Affecting Small Distilleries	ONTP
--------------------	---------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	------

### **Campaign Finance, Generally**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2000	An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws	PUBLIC 600
----------------	---------	--------------------------------------------	------------

### **Campaign Finance, Maine Clean Election Act**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 818	An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents	Died On Adjournment
--------------------	--------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------

### **Cannabis Advisory Entity**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1669	An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council	PUBLIC 506
----------------	---------	---------------------------------------------------	------------

### **Cannabis, Adult Use**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1488	An Act Regarding Adult Use Cannabis Testing	PUBLIC 764
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1365	An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges	Majority (ONTP) Report

LD 1820	An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry	Died On Adjournment
LD 1983	An Act to Protect Minors from Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products by Regulating Those Products Under the Adult Use Cannabis Laws	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310

### *Cannabis, Medical Use*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1609	An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers	PUBLIC 611
	LD 1840	An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act	PUBLIC 512

### *Cannabis, Medical Use and Adult Use*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1897	An Act Regarding Outdoor Cultivation in the Medical Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Industries	PUBLIC 514
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 948	An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1847	An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group	Died On Adjournment

### *Elections, Conduct of Elections*

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 13	An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State	Died On Adjournment
	LD 615	An Act Regarding Elections	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 1356	An Act to Change the State's Method of Allocating Electoral Votes from a Congressional District Method to a Winner-take-all Method Contingent on the State of Nebraska Changing its Method of Allocating Electoral Votes	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1666	An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes	Died On Adjournment

### **Gambling, Beano and Games of Chance**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1902	An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games	Majority (ONTP) Report
--------------------	---------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------

### **Gambling, Casinos and Slot Machines**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1851	An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming	Majority (ONTP) Report
--------------------	---------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------

### **Gambling, Generally**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2007	An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games	PUBLIC 645
----------------	---------	--------------------------------------------------------------	------------

### **Gambling, Harness Racing and Off-track Betting**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 793	Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing	Died On Adjournment
--------------------	--------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------

### **Gambling, Internet Gaming**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1164	An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming	PUBLIC 538
	LD 2080	An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering and Internet Gaming	PUBLIC 628

### **Gambling, Lottery**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1012	An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory	PUBLIC 536
	LD 2095	An Act to Prohibit Bulk Purchasing of Tickets in Certain Lottery Games	PUBLIC 605

### **Gambling, Sports and Fantasy Contests**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2080	An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering and Internet Gaming	PUBLIC 628
----------------	---------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

**Enacted** LD 2048 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fantasy Contest Licensing ONTP

**Lobbying and Lobbyist Regulation**

**Not Enacted** LD 1814 An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Amending Laws Regarding Persons Attempting to Influence the Competitive Bidding Process and Lobbyist Reporting During Rule-making Processes ONTP

**Maine National Guard**

**Enacted** LD 2130 An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses PUBLIC 634

**Office of Cannabis Policy**

**Not Enacted** LD 584 An Act to Make the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy an Appointed Position Subject to Confirmation by the Legislature Majority (ONTP) Report

**Veterans**

**Enacted** LD 1640 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission PUBLIC 763

LD 2135 An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed PUBLIC 636

DIGEST OF BILLS  
132ND LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2026

**Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
VLA	13	An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	584	An Act to Make the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy an Appointed Position Subject to Confirmation by the Legislature	Hickman, Craig	ONTP/OTP-AM	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
VLA	615	An Act Regarding Elections	Gramlich, Lori	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
VLA	793	Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	818	An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents	Cloutier, Kristen	OTP/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	948	An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	1012	An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory	Farrin, Brad	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	536	
VLA	1164	An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming	Rana, Ambureen	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	538	
VLA	1356	An Act to Change the State's Method of Allocating Electoral Votes from a Congressional District Method to a Winner-take-all Method Contingent on the State of Nebraska Changing its Method of Allocating Electoral Votes	Lee, Adam	ONTP/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	1365	An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges	Boyer, Jr., David	ONTP/OTP-AM	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			

DIGEST OF BILLS  
132ND LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2026

**Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
VLA	1488	An Act Regarding Adult Use Cannabis Testing	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	764	
VLA	1609	An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers	Fredericks, Ann	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	611	
VLA	1640	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	763	
VLA	1666	An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes	Reny, Cameron	ONTP/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	1669	An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	506	
VLA	1814	An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Amending Laws Regarding Persons Attempting to Influence the Competitive Bidding Process and Lobbyist Reporting During Rule-making Processes	Hickman, Craig	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
VLA	1820	An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry	Chapman, Quentin	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	1840	An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	512	
VLA	1847	An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group	Graham, Anne	OTP-AM/OTP-AM/OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
VLA	1851	An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming	Malon, II, Marc	ONTP/OTP-AM	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
VLA	1855	An Act to Repeal the Low-alcohol Spirits Product Tax	Dill, Jim	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			

DIGEST OF BILLS  
132ND LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2026

**Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
VLA	1897	An Act Regarding Outdoor Cultivation in the Medical Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Industries	Osher, Laurie	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	514	
VLA	1902	An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games	Hickman, Craig	ONTP/OTP-AM	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
VLA	1983	An Act to Protect Minors from Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products by Regulating Those Products Under the Adult Use Cannabis Laws	Ingwersen, Henry	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
VLA	2000	An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	600	
VLA	2007	An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	645	
VLA	2048	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fantasy Contest Licensing	Timberlake, Jeff	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
VLA	2080	An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering and Internet Gaming	Malon, II, Marc	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	628	
VLA	2095	An Act to Prohibit Bulk Purchasing of Tickets in Certain Lottery Games	Supica, Laura	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	605	
VLA	2130	An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses	Farrin, Brad	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	634	
VLA	2135	An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed	Nangle, Tim	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	636	
VLA	2155	An Act to Exempt, for Licenses Issued Prior to December 21, 2025, Persons Holding a Majority Ownership Interest from the Restriction on the Number of Manufacturing Facility Licenses and On-premises Retail Licenses	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	772	
VLA	2160	An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Affecting Small Distilleries	Geiger, Valli	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			

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

**LD 1012 An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory**

Public Law 2025, chapter 536 establishes the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund and directs the State Liquor and Lottery Commission, in consultation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, to develop and initiate, no later than July 1, 2026, a \$4 instant lottery game to raise funds for the fund. The commission is required to provide 20% of the net proceeds of the lottery game to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund and 80% of the net proceeds to the General Fund. The commission is required to submit a report by December 15, 2028, detailing the status of the instant lottery game to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters, which may report out legislation related to the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

Public Law 2025, chapter 536 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 536 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 536 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to amend the date by which the commission is required to develop and initiate a tick laboratory instant lottery game to no later than July 1, 2027, instead of no later than July 1, 2026. It also amends the date the commission is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters regarding the status of the tick laboratory instant lottery game to December 15, 2029, instead of December 15, 2028.

**LD 1164 An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming**

Public Law 2025, chapter 538 authorizes each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State to operate Internet gaming pursuant to a license from the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety. Only a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State is eligible to obtain a license and operate Internet gaming. The licensing structure follows the law governing sports wagering. The Gambling Control Unit shall collect and distribute 18% of adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts to the Gambling Control Unit administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account, the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund, the dairy stabilization tier program, the Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund, the Emergency Housing Relief Fund, the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund, the Fund for a Healthy Maine and the School Revolving Renovation Fund.

Public Law 2025, chapter 538 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 538 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

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

**LD 1488 An Act Regarding Adult Use Cannabis Testing**

Public Law 2025, chapter 764 provides that the use of cannabis concentrate in the creation of an edible cannabis product is not considered further processing, manufacturing or alteration for the purpose of additional testing, except for testing for tetrahydrocannabinol potency, homogeneity and cannabinoid profiles to ensure correct labeling.

Public Law 2025, chapter 764 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 19, 2026.

**LD 1609 An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers**

Public Law 2025, chapter 611 requires any person applying for or renewing a registry identification card or registration certificate under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, except for assistants, to submit to a criminal history record check. If a person applying for or renewing a registry identification card or registration certificate is a business entity, every officer or director of the business entity is also required to submit to a criminal history record check.

**LD 1640 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission**

Public Law 2025, chapter 763 establishes the Base Gagetown Training Registry within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services to collect and maintain data related to military service and health conditions from individuals who voluntarily provide such data and who have trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.

Public Law 2025, chapter 763 also reestablishes the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and allows the study commission to request information it determines necessary to complete the study of the effects of exposure to harmful chemicals on individuals who trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada as a member of the United States Armed Forces, as a member of the reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or as a member of the National Guard of any state from the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans' affairs no later than November 4, 2026. The committee may report out a bill based on the recommendations to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

**LD 1669 An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council**

Public Law 2025, chapter 506 establishes the Cannabis Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters concerning how best to work with state agencies, municipal

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

governments, the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and citizen groups to make improvements to and maintain the quality of the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and to make recommendations concerning matters of interest to the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry, including, but not limited to, financial services, taxation, cannabis-related research and development, environmental and public health protection, cannabis policy in other states and federal legalization. The council is responsible for bringing forward to the director and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters issues of concern to the cannabis industry and for assisting in the dissemination of information to members of the cannabis industry. The council may solicit and consider public comment during its meetings.

The office must provide administrative and staff support for the council within existing resources and the council shall meet at least four times a year and, to the extent practicable, at more than one location throughout the State.

The council consists of 12 members appointed by either the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate or the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy. In making certain appointments, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall consider up to six recommendations from associations representing the interests of the medical use cannabis industry or adult use cannabis industry. A members' term is three years, and a member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. To the extent practicable, the membership of the council must reflect a geographic distribution across the State. The cannabis business advocate serves as an ex officio nonvoting member of the council.

Public Law 2025, chapter 506 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 506 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

### **LD 1840 An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act**

Public Law 2025, chapter 512 makes the following changes to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act.

1. It provides that a caregiver is authorized to sell, offer to sell, furnish or transport cannabis plants or harvested cannabis on property or premises owned, leased or rented, subject to the terms of any lease or rental agreement, by the caregiver; at trade shows or other industry-related events regarding cannabis for medical use; or through delivery to or private arrangement with a qualifying patient or registrant as long as the delivery or private arrangement occurs on property or at premises owned, leased or rented by the caregiver, subject to the terms of any lease or rental agreement, by the caregiver, qualifying patient or registrant or on public property that is not designated as a safe zone by a municipality or in any other public space where the sale, furnishing or transport of cannabis plants or harvested cannabis is prohibited by law.

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

2. It provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, in its annual report to the Legislature regarding the medical use of cannabis, must include information regarding the gross sales of cannabis for medical use for the current and prior fiscal years.
3. It directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy, on or before January 9, 2026, to provisionally adopt and submit for legislative review major substantive rules necessary to implement the medical cannabis research grant program in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2430, subsection 5.
4. It directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy to, as expeditiously as possible, make available on the office's publicly accessible website all registration and renewal forms in their entirety as a portable document file or similar file format that does not require the use of independent software, hardware or operating systems. It also directs the office to make those forms available at the office on paper.

Public Law 2025, chapter 512 was finally enacted in both the House and Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 512 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 512 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to amend the date by which the office must provisionally adopt and submit for legislative review rules necessary to implement a medical cannabis research grant program to on or before January 8, 2027, instead of on or before January 9, 2026.

**LD 1897 An Act Regarding Outdoor Cultivation in the Medical Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Industries**

Public Law 2025, chapter 514 makes the following changes to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act.

1. It defines "outdoor cultivation area" under the medical use of cannabis provisions and "outdoor cultivation" and "indoor cultivation" under the adult use cannabis provisions.
2. It increases the number of cannabis plants and expands the area of canopy of cannabis plants that a medical use caregiver who cultivates mature cannabis plants only in an outdoor cultivation area and who registers based on plant count or canopy may cultivate and it establishes a registration fee for such caregivers.
3. It removes the provision of law under the medical use of cannabis provisions that authorize an elected official invited by a caregiver for the purpose of providing education to the elected official on cultivation to access a cultivation area and provides instead that any person under the direct supervision of the caregiver may access a cultivation area.

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

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

### **LD 2000 An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws**

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

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

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

### **LD 2007 An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LD 2130 An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses**

Public Law 2025, chapter 634 requires an employing agency, in filling a position in the classified service, to offer an interview to the spouse of an eligible service member, which is defined as a person who is serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces including the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and the National Guard and a person actively serving in the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard if that spouse meets the minimum qualifications established for the position. The law also requires an employer, in any reduction in personnel in the state service, to retain the spouse of an eligible service member in preference to all other competing employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and performance reviews.

**LD 2135 An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed**

Public Law 2025, chapter 636 establishes the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program and the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. The purpose of the fund is to receive funds from state, federal and other sources for the purpose of awarding grants to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations who have as a core program supporting permanent housing for veteran populations. Grant funding may be used by the organization for housing provider incentives, risk mitigation payments and past rental debt payments for veterans experiencing homelessness. The bureau may adopt routine technical rules related to the awarding of grants.

The law also requires the bureau to submit a report regarding grants issued and the use of grant funding by organizations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans' affairs by February 15, 2027, and in any year in which a grant is issued.

Public Law 2025, chapter 636 also provides a one-time transfer of \$90,000 from the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit, Sports Wagering program to the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund.

**LD 2155 An Act to Exempt, for Licenses Issued Prior to December 21, 2025, Persons Holding a Majority Ownership Interest from the Restriction on the Number of Manufacturing Facility Licenses and On-premises Retail Licenses**

Public Law 2025, chapter 772 prohibits the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services from suspending, revoking or refusing to renew a manufacturing facility license or an on-premises retail license issued to a manufacturing facility licensee prior to December 21, 2025 solely on the basis that the person or persons holding a majority ownership interest in the licensed manufacturing facility was determined by the bureau after the license was initially issued to hold a majority ownership interest in more than the allowable number of on-premises retail licenses. The law also prohibits the sale, transfer or other conveyance of those licenses.

**132nd LEGISLATURE  
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Summary of Committee Actions**

<b>I. BILLS AND PAPERS CONSIDERED</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Activity</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
<b>A. Bills referred to Committee</b>			
<i>Bills referred and reported out</i>	10	50.0%	1.4%
<i><u>Bills carried over from previous session</u></i>	<u>10</u>	<u>50.0%</u>	<u>1.4%</u>
<b>Total Bills referred</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>B. Bills reported out by law or joint order and not referred back to committee</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total Bills considered by Committee</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Orders and Resolutions referred to Committee</b>			
<i>Joint Study Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders carried over from previous session</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Orders and Resolutions Referred</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>II. COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of this Committee's Reports</u>	<u>% of All Committee Reports</u>
<b>A. Unanimous committee reports</b>			
<i>Ought to Pass</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Ought to Pass as Amended</i>	7	35.0%	1.6%
<i>Leave to Withdraw</i>	2	10.0%	0.5%
<i><u>Ought Not to Pass</u></i>	<u>3</u>	<u>15.0%</u>	<u>0.7%</u>
<b>Total unanimous reports</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>B. Divided committee reports</b>			
<i>Two-way reports</i>	7	35.0%	1.6%
<i>Three-way reports</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Four-way reports</u></i>	<u>1</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
<b>Total divided reports</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Total committee reports</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>III. CONFIRMATION HEARINGS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>IV. FINAL DISPOSITION</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Bills/Papers</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
<b>A. Bills and Papers enacted or finally passed</b>			
<i>Joint Study Orders</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Public laws</i>	15	75.0%	2.0%
<i>Private and Special Laws</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Resolves</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Constitutional Resolutions</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Enacted or Finally Passed</b>	<b>15 *</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>B. Resolves to authorize major substantive rules</b>			
<i>Rules authorized without legislative changes</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Rules authorized with legislative changes</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Rules not authorized by the Legislature</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total number of rules reviewed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>C. Bills vetoed or held by Governor</b>			
<i>Vetoed over-ridden</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Vetoed sustained</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Held by the Governor</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

\* Total number of enacted laws includes one bill that was reported out of the VLA Committee during the 131st First Regular or First Special Sessions, carried over on the Special Appropriations Table and then enacted during the Second Regular Session; and five bills that were enacted during the First Regular or First Special Sessions, held by the Governor and then became law at the beginning of the Second Regular Session.