

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

July 2007

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\*Representative Bonnie S. Gould replaced former Representative Abigail Holman on the Judiciary Committee.

# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

# Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

## Committee Amendment "A" (H-340)

This amendment clarifies that a parental rights and responsibilities order may be entered by the court in a child protective case upon the request of a parent. This amendment replaces the paragraph in the bill that provides party status to the Department of Health and Human Services with regard to a parental rights and responsibilities order issued in the context of a child protective proceeding. Instead, this amendment makes clear that the department is not a party to any proceeding to modify or terminate the parental rights and responsibilities order unless the court orders otherwise. The department still has the ability to request judicial review under the existing child protective laws. This amendment gives the court discretion to determine in child protective cases in which the court enters a parental rights and responsibilities order whether further reviews of the child protection order are necessary and whether further permanency planning hearings should be held. This amendment gives the court discretion to determine in the same situations whether the appointments of the guardian ad litem and attorneys for the parents should be terminated.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 256 gives the District Court the authority to enter an order upon the request of a parent in a child protection case under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act that establishes parental rights and responsibilities in the same manner as permitted in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A. The department is not a party to any proceeding to modify or terminate the parental rights and responsibilities order unless the court orders otherwise. The department still has the ability to request judicial review under the existing child protective laws. The court has discretion to determine whether further reviews of the child protection order are necessary and whether further permanency planning hearings should be held. Chapter 256 gives the court discretion to determine in the same situations whether the appointments of the guardian ad litem and attorneys for the parents should be terminated.

**LD 390**

## An Act To Allow the District Court To Adjudicate Parentage in Child Protective Custody Cases

**PUBLIC 257**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SIMPSON MILLS P	OTP-AM	H-341

LD 390 gives the District Court the authority to determine parentage as part of a child protection proceeding, and that determination is controlling in all subsequent proceedings, including those established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A dealing with child custody, child support and similar actions.

## Committee Amendment "A" (H-341)

This amendment deletes language concerning the binding effect of a parentage decision made by the District Court in a child protection proceeding.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 257 gives the District Court the authority to determine parentage as part of a child protection proceeding.