

# 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 APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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# 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

**LD 411 An Act To Establish a Pilot Program for Return of Unused Prescription Drugs by Mail**

**P & S 27**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERRY A	OTP	S-360 ROTUNDO

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 to provide funding for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency to establish a pilot program for return of unused prescription drugs by mail consistent with the recommendations of the Maine Drug Return Implementation Group established in Public Law 2003, chapter 679.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-360)**

Unlike the bill, which appropriated \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency to establish a pilot program for the return of unused prescription drugs by mail, this amendment allocates \$150,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency to establish the pilot program.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 27 allocates \$150,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency to establish the pilot program.

**LD 417 An Act To Authorize the Issuance of a Highway Fund Bond Issue for Maine's Roads and Bridges**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT	ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$60,000,000, will be used for highway and bridge construction.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

**LD 425 An Act Regarding the Accounting Procedure for Certain State Programs**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOLMAN		

This bill provides more transparency to the appropriations process by returning the funding mechanism for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program and business equipment tax reimbursement to General Fund appropriations rather than an offset to General Fund revenue within the individual income tax category beginning in the 2010-2011 biennium. It also requires the State Tax Assessor to issue an annual financial report for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program at the same time as a similar existing report is required for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program.

This bill requires the State Controller's official annual report of the State and the state budget to specifically identify all nonexpenditure payments that are accounted for as an offset to revenue to increase access to the information by the public.

# *Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

**LD 426      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Repairs to Traditional Meetinghouses      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHATZ	ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,500,000, will be used for the repair of traditional meetinghouses in the State, such as grange halls, community houses and other traditional public areas of gathering in a community.

**LD 427      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Recreational Facilities      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHATZ	ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,500,000, will be used to establish recreational health facilities for areas in the State that lack access to physical fitness facilities.

**LD 432      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Maintain, Improve and Develop Trails      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAMON	ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used to improve, maintain and develop a trails network in Maine.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

**LD 440      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Revitalize Communities and Expand Maine's Innovative Economy through the New Century Program      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS	ONTP	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to revitalize downtown areas, support cultural tourism, increase access to digital resources and expand Maine's creative economy.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.