

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

July 2007

STAFF:

KAREN NADEAU-DRILLEN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
&
LOCK KIERMAIER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207)287-1635

MEMBERS:

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD 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 123rd 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 Transportation

log of the applicant to provide the name and address of the person who accompanied the applicant for a majority of the required 35 hours. This law also allows the Secretary of State to complete the certification of a person between 18 and 21 years of age who does not have a parent, stepparent, guardian, spouse or employer if the applicant provides the name and address of the person accompanying the applicant for the majority of the required 35 hours.

Public Law 2007, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 13, 2007.

LD 494 An Act To Repeal the Motor Vehicle Inspection Laws

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VAUGHAN | ONTP | |

This bill repeals statutory provisions that require motor vehicles registered in the State to have an annual motor vehicle inspection.

LD 495 Resolve, To Develop an Appropriate Commemorative License Plate Decal for Combat Service

RESOLVE 23

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| FLETCHER | OTP-AM | H-107 |

This bill adds the Combat Infantryman Badge, established by the War Department in 1943 to recognize the skill and heroism of the American infantry, to the list of special commemorative decals for sets of special veterans registration plates.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-107)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to convene a working group composed of combat veterans to develop an appropriate manner of commemorating combat service in the form of one or more commemorative license plate decals. The working group is directed to examine the appropriateness of developing a single decal versus the use of decals representing the following combat badges: Army Combat Infantry Badge, Army Combat Medic Badge, Army Combat Action Badge, Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Medal. If the working group determines that a single decal is appropriate, it must design the decal in consultation with the Secretary of State. The director and the Secretary of State are directed to report the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than November 30, 2007. The Secretary of State must include with the report draft legislation to make appropriate changes to law to implement the recommendations of the working group. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit a bill related to the subject matter of the working group's report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolves 2007, chapter 23 directs the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to convene a working group to develop an appropriate manner of commemorating combat service in the form of one or more commemorative license plate decals. The director and the Secretary of State are required to report the findings

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than November 30, 2007. The Secretary of State must include with the report draft legislation to make appropriate changes to law to implement the recommendations of the working group. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit a bill related to the subject matter of the working group's report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 496 An Act To Exempt Emergency Vehicles from Tolls on the Maine Turnpike

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EBERLE | ONTP | |

This bill exempts a municipality's emergency vehicles from tolls on the Maine Turnpike if that municipality provides emergency services to the Maine Turnpike Authority.

LD 497 An Act To Allow Funeral Processions To Use Certain Lights

PUBLIC 62

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HANLEY S | OTP-AM | H-47 |

This bill allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for alternate flashing of the vehicle's headlights or a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is owned and operated by a licensed funeral home.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-47)

This amendment allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is operated by a licensed funeral home.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 62 allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is operated by a licensed funeral home.

LD 511 An Act To Study the Feasibility of Locating a New Bridge in the St. David Area

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| THERIAULT | | H-17 |

This bill allocates funds from the Highway Fund for the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of locating a new bridge in the St. David area and specifies that any unspent funds not needed for the costs of the study are to be used for the costs of an environmental impact study required by the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The bill also allocates funds to the Madawaska Bridge Committee to defray expenses incurred by the committee in its effort to locate a new bridge in the St. David area.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-17)

The amendment eliminates the appropriation of funds from the Highway Fund to the Madawaska Bridge Committee that was included in the bill to defray expenses incurred by the committee in its effort to locate a new bridge in the