

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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

July 2007

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 525 Resolve, To Stimulate Tourism Development Projects

RESOLVE 14

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ANNIS SMITH D	OTP-AM	H-69

This resolve directs the Office of Tourism to develop a nature-based tourism program in 3 separate areas of the State and requires the office to report on its progress in developing the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development by February 1, 2008.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-69)

This amendment clarifies that the Office of Tourism is required to develop a nature-based tourism program within existing resources.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 14 directs the Office of Tourism to develop within existing resources a nature-based tourism program in 3 separate areas of the State and target and coordinate its tourism development efforts in these areas so that the program will serve as a model for future tourism efforts throughout the State.

LD 550 An Act To Allow the Independent Practice of Dental Hygiene

ONTP

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

This bill allows dental hygienists to practice independently and perform duties as defined by the Board of Dental Examiners.

LD 553 An Act To Allow for Corporate Ownership of Dental Practices

ONTP

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

This bill removes the prohibition on corporations engaging in the practice of dentistry. The Maine Professional Service Corporation Act continues to apply to incorporated dental practices.

**LD 565 An Act To Remove the Sunset on the Exemption of Internet Services
from Auctioneer Licensure Requirements**

**PUBLIC 61
EMERGENCY**

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

Current law provides an exemption from licensing as an auctioneer for a person who contracts to sell goods over the Internet. The exemption is scheduled to expire on May 15, 2007.

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

This bill removes the sunset of the exemption.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 61 removes the sunset of the exemption from the auctioneer licensing requirements for a person who contracts to sell goods over the Internet. The exemption was scheduled to expire on May 15, 2007.

Public Law 2007, chapter 61 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2007.

LD 575 An Act To Expand Jurisdictions of Municipal Housing Authorities ONTP

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

This bill provides municipal housing authorities with the exclusive authority to administer federal funds within their areas of operation and within the boundaries of contiguous communities for the operation and management of housing projects.

LD 607 An Act To Improve Electrical Safety ONTP

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

This bill requires that electrical work performed by a nonlicensed individual be inspected by a licensed electrician or a municipal code enforcement officer.

LD 630 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation To Strengthen Safety Inspection Requirements Governing Industrial Elevators ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK BRYANT B	ONTP	

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to review and strengthen current industrial elevator safety inspection requirements so they are similar to those of residential and business elevators.

LD 656 Resolve, To Focus State Agency Efforts in Economic Development on Entrepreneurial Sustainability and Growth RESOLVE 38

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERRY A	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-133

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to require state agencies that promote economic development to focus on the sustainability and growth of entrepreneurial efforts and development in the poorest counties of the State.