

# 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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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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 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.

# Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

## Committee Amendment "A" (H-133)

This amendment replaces the bill and creates a resolve that directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene working groups in 3 rural counties in the State to develop a plan for economic development and growth that addresses the specific economic environment of each county. It provides that the working groups must convene at least 4 meetings to review the economic development needs of these counties and provide benchmarks for their strengths and weaknesses. The department is required to assist and guide the working groups with their economic development initiatives and to report on the progress of each working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development by February 1, 2008.

### Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 38 directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene working groups in 3 rural counties in the State to develop a plan for economic development and growth that addresses the specific economic environment of each county. It provides that the working groups must convene at least 4 meetings to review the economic development needs of these counties and provide benchmarks for their strengths and weaknesses. The department is required to assist and guide the working groups with their economic development initiatives and to report on the progress of each working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development by February 1, 2008.

LD 662      **Resolve, To Assist Veterans in Need of Shelter**

**RESOLVE 90**

Sponsor(s)

MILLS J

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-459

This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority, with input from the Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs, to assess the need for and placement of housing and shelter throughout the State for homeless veterans and to make it a top priority to develop plans and work with local, state, regional and federal agencies to provide shelter and housing for homeless veterans.

## Committee Amendment "A" (H-459)

This amendment replaces the resolve and requires the Maine State Housing Authority to work with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, to increase outreach efforts across the State for veterans who are homeless and directs the authority to convene a group of stakeholders involved in veterans affairs to find methods for improving outreach efforts and using any available federal grants to assist in meeting the needs of homeless veterans.

### Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 90 requires the Maine State Housing Authority to work with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, to increase outreach efforts across the State for veterans who are homeless and directs the authority to convene a group of stakeholders involved in veterans affairs to find methods for improving outreach efforts and using any available federal grants to assist in meeting the needs of homeless veterans.