

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

May 2008

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARGARET ROTUNDO, CHAIR
SEN. JOHN L. MARTIN
SEN. KARL W. TURNER

REP. JEREMY R. FISCHER, CHAIR
REP. MARGARET M. CRAVEN
REP. JANET T. MILLS
REP. EMILY ANN CAIN
REP. LINDA M. VALENTINO
REP. DAVID C. WEBSTER
REP. H. SAWIN MILLETT, JR.
REP. PATRICK S. A. FLOOD
REP. JOHN C. ROBINSON
REP. JAYNE CROSBY GILES

STAFF:

MAUREEN DAWSON, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207)287-1635

STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR & FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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 Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123rd Maine Legislature.

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:

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (R2) is June 30, 2008. The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (S1) is July 18, 2008.¹ The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills. Any bill summarized in this document having an LD number less than 1932 was a bill carried over from the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

¹ The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Part B of this bill establishes a 5% limit on the amount of General Fund and Highway Fund revenues that may be allocated for tax-supported debt service in any fiscal year. Part B also directs the State Treasurer to annually calculate and report to the Legislature on the aggregate unfunded actuarial liability of the State, taking into consideration health and life insurance and pension benefits that are scheduled to be provided to retired state employees, teachers and other governmental workers provided benefits pursuant to state law.

Part C of this bill establishes as a goal a 10% reduction by the year 2010 in the statewide expenditure for educational administrative services in kindergarten to grade 12 public education as that expenditure is measured as a percent of total personal income. It establishes goals for specific categories of costs and services. It also establishes a comprehensive system of analysis, recommendation, outreach and implementation to be accomplished on the local level through the creation of regional planning alliances to achieve that goal within the 26 career and technical education regions in Maine. If the cost reduction goal is not achieved, the Commissioner of Education must submit a plan to the Legislature to achieve the cost reductions.

Part D of this bill amends the law governing the responsibilities of the Executive Department, State Planning Office to collect data and report about the effects of government spending limitation law on Maine's overall tax burden. It also requires the State Planning Office to work with the Maine Development Foundation to prepare the required compliance reports in a manner designed to be accessible to the general public. It also requires the State Planning Office to perform calculations of Maine's state and local government employment and expenditure levels in comparison with other states for the purpose of identifying categories of government employment and expenditure that deviate significantly from national and peer state averages. Finally, it directs the State Planning Office, working in conjunction with Maine Revenue Services, to establish a contract with the Maine Development Foundation to comprehensively analyze the sources of government revenue available to each state in the United States, including Maine, with a focus on comparing the various state and local taxes and fees in terms of nominal revenues by category, tax and revenue burdens, rates of taxes and fee schedules and levels of reliance and exportation.

LD 817 An Act To Support the Maine Keeping Seniors Home Program

ONTP

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

This bill makes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$350,000 in fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 to the Department of Health and Human Services for the statewide Keeping Seniors Home program administered by Western Maine Community Action, Inc.

LD 925 An Act To Provide Funds To Support Residential Programs for People with Developmental Disabilities

ONTP

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

The bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$6,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 for room and board costs for people served under the MaineCare home and community-based care waiver for people with developmental disabilities. These room and board costs are no longer Medicaid reimbursable and therefore require a state appropriation for grants to make up for the loss in federal funds.