

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 electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

STAFF:

NATALIE L. HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. LYNN BROMLEY, CHAIR
SEN. ELIZABETH SCHNEIDER
SEN. JONATHAN T. E. COURTNEY

REP. NANCY E. SMITH, CHAIR
REP. STEPHEN R. BEAUDETTE
REP. RICHARD C. CLEARY
REP. W. BRUCE MACDONALD
REP. MARK PAUL SAMSON
REP. KIMBERLY E. W. SILSBY
REP. CHRISTOPHER W. RECTOR
REP. SUSAN M. W. AUSTIN
REP. MICHAEL GARY BEAULIEU
REP. KERRI L. PRESCOTT

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 833 An Act To Support the Maine Patent Program

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FISCHER HOBBINS		H-225

The bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 for the University of Maine School of Law's Maine Patent Program.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-225)

This amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section.

LD 851 An Act To Facilitate the Upgrading and Preservation of Existing Building Structures

ONTP

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

This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to adopt a uniform fire and life safety code based on standards established by the International Code Council. It repeals the provision of law that requires fire and safety codes to be enforced instead of the Model Building Code when there exists a conflict between the codes. It also requires the commissioner to adopt rules for the modification of existing building structures that allow for the preservation of artistic and architectural integrity of historical building structures and for varying degrees of safety requirements depending on the type of construction and the level of risk that may arise from variations in building type and intensity of use.

LD 855 An Act To Require the Maine State Housing Authority To Perform a Comprehensive Resource and Needs Assessment for Housing for Special Needs Populations That Are Not Homeless

ONTP

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

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to periodically perform a comprehensive resource and needs assessment for housing for special needs populations that are not homeless.

LD 918 Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development To Convene a Working Group To Explore Regionalization

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BARSTOW STRIMLING	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group to explore efficiencies and benefits to be gained through regionalization. The working group is directed to examine

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

regionalization measures to make advocacy for business more coordinated and cost-effective, to reduce duplication and to support the efforts of the business community.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-226)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It requires the Executive Department, State Planning Office, instead of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, to convene the working group. It also requires the report to be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development instead of to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

LD 927 An Act To Amend the Lodging Place Licensing Requirements to Support Small Businesses

PUBLIC 428

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ANNIS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-277 S-172 MARTIN

This bill provides that a private home that is designated or eligible to be designated as a historic building is not considered a lodging place if it does not gross more than \$100,000 annually and does not let more than 7 rooms or does not have more than 15 unrelated guests at one time.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-277)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It amends the private home exemption from licensing for lodging places by increasing the number of rooms that may be let from 3 to 5. It deletes the provisions in the bill that propose to allow for a private home that is designated or eligible to be designated as a historic building to be exempted from the licensing provision if it does not gross more than \$100,000 annually and does not let more than 7 rooms or does not have more than 15 unrelated guests at one time.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-172)

This amendment specifies that private homes that are not considered lodging places and are not subject to licensing must post in a visible location in each rented room a card informing the public that the lodging place is not regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and must provide guests upon check-in with a notice containing the same information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 428 amends the private home exemption from licensing requirements for lodging places by increasing the number of rooms that may be let from 3 to 5. The law requires private homes that are exempted from the licensing requirements to post in a visible location in each rented room a card informing the public that the lodging place is not regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and must provide guests upon check-in with a notice containing the same information.

LD 944 An Act To Reduce Regulatory Costs for Maine Businesses

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to reduce regulatory costs for businesses in the State by establishing a council on private sector regulatory costs composed of private sector business leaders. The council would: