

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine  
Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

May 2008

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

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

# Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Protection's rules is added.

## LD 2037 An Act To Provide Support for At-risk Youth

ONTP

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

This bill creates a program within the Juvenile Court to address punishment and proactive treatment of at-risk youth. Petitions for the program may be filed by a parent, a school official, the Department of Health and Human Services, a guardian ad litem or other legal advocate when a juvenile regularly runs away from home, exhibits extremely disruptive behavior or is habitually truant.

## LD 2047 An Act To Shield Journalists' Confidential Sources

PUBLIC 654

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK	OTP-AM	H-1010

This bill provides protection against compelled disclosure of confidential sources of information, information that identifies confidential sources, confidential information and certain data collected by journalists. The bill provides exceptions for a court to compel disclosure in specific situations. It also provides for a waiver of the protection in specific circumstances. The source of information obtained in violation of this bill is inadmissible in any judicial, legislative, administrative or other proceeding.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-1010)

This amendment revises the bill to delete the protection for nonconfidential information. It clarifies that disclosure of information may be compelled in both civil and criminal cases only when the party seeking the identity of the confidential source or the information establishes certain facts by a preponderance of the evidence. It also clarifies that the journalist waives the protection from compelled disclosure by voluntarily disclosing or consenting to the disclosure of the confidential information about the confidential source. This amendment deletes the provision providing that the source of any information obtained in violation of the new law is inadmissible. The definition of "journalist" is deleted to allow the court to determine on a case-by-case basis whether a person claiming the protection from compelled disclosure is eligible for such protection. This amendment deletes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 654 provides protection against compelled disclosure of confidential sources of information, information that identifies confidential sources and confidential information collected by journalists. Disclosure of information may be compelled in both civil and criminal cases only when the party seeking the identity of the confidential source or the information establishes certain facts by a preponderance of the evidence. The journalist waives the protection from compelled disclosure by voluntarily disclosing or consenting to the disclosure of the confidential information about the confidential source.

## LD 2093 An Act To Help Prevent Identity Theft

PUBLIC 626

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TARDY	OTP-AM	H-905

## Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

This bill prohibits the preparer of documents from including an individual's personally identifiable information in a document recorded in the registry of deeds. See also LD 2094.

### Committee Amendment "A" (H-905)

This amendment replaces the bill. It does not include the prohibition on filing documents that contain an individual's personally identifiable information. This amendment revises the listing of the data elements that are considered "personal information" to be consistent with current state law concerning data breaches. This amendment allows an individual to request that that individual's personal information included in a document recorded with a register of deeds and available on the registry's publicly accessible website be redacted from the record available online. It also includes a mandate preamble.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 626 allows an individual to request that that individual's personal information be redacted from a record available on the registry of deeds' publicly accessible website.

### LD 2094 An Act To Protect Personally Identifying Information

ONTP

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

This bill prohibits the preparer of documents from including an individual's personally identifiable information in a document recorded in the registry of deeds. See also LD 2093.

### LD 2115 An Act To Limit Liability for Businesses and Employees Who Work with Liquefied Petroleum Gas

ONTP

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

This bill limits the liability of suppliers, transporters, handlers and sellers of liquefied petroleum gas for actual and punitive damages related to the modification, repair or use of liquefied petroleum gas equipment or appliances by any other person.

### LD 2128 An Act To Correct the Uniform Limited Partnership Act of 2007

**PUBLIC 502  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBINS	OTP-AM	S-440

This bill corrects a gap in the Uniform Limited Partnership Act of 2007 inadvertently created by Public Law 2005, chapter 543. Current law is ambiguous with regard to what law applies to existing limited partnerships that do not elect to be covered by the new law before July 1, 2008.

### Committee Amendment "A" (S-440)

The Maine Revised Statutes, Title 31, former chapter 11 contained the limited partnership laws, and it was repealed by Public Law 2005, chapter 543. This amendment corrects the cross-reference to that repealed chapter.