

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 JUDICIARY

July 2007

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*Representative Bonnie S. Gould replaced former Representative Abigail Holman on the Judiciary Committee.

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 Judiciary

LD 86 requires that an accident report be filed for a motor vehicle accident on private property as current law requires for an accident on a public way. LD 86 was rereferred from the Transportation Committee.

LD 94

An Act To Protect Consumer Rights under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act

PUBLIC 222

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAIRCLOTH HOBBINS	OTP-AM	H-240

LD 94 clarifies and achieves the original intent of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act concerning regulatory boards by exempting from application of the law actions expressly permitted by law by a regulatory board or officer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-240)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes a two-step analysis to determine if a defendant's transactions or actions are excepted from the application of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. First, the defendant must show that its business activities are subject to regulation by a state or federal agency. If the defendant satisfies the first step, then the defendant must show that the specific activity that is the focus of the inquiry is authorized, permitted or required by a state or federal agency or by applicable law, rule or regulation, or that other regulatory approval, which may be less formal than law, rule or regulation, authorizes, permits or requires the specific activity.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, c. 222 establishes a two-step analysis to determine if a defendant's transactions or actions are excepted from the application of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. First, the defendant must show that its business activities are subject to regulation by a state or federal agency. If the defendant satisfies the first step, then the defendant must show that the specific activity that is the focus of the inquiry is authorized, permitted or required by a state or federal agency or by applicable law, rule or regulation, or that other regulatory approval, which may be less formal than law, rule or regulation, authorizes, permits or requires the specific activity.

LD 102

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Mechanics Liens

ONTP

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

LD 102 requires that for a lien for construction costs to be enforced, it must be for labor, materials or services performed under a written contract.

LD 103

An Act To Give Children Equal Priority in Creditor Situations Consistent with Bankruptcy

ONTP

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