

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 STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

July 2007

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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 State and Local Government

LD 130 An Act To Allow County Commissioners To Appoint Registers of Deeds

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

LD 130 allows county commissioners to replace the position of elected register of deeds with an appointed register of deeds. It follows the process available to commissioners to replace elected treasurers with appointed treasurers by requiring a countywide vote on the question.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-6)

This amendment, which is the minority report, incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 141 An Act To Clarify the Process for Public Improvement Construction
Contracts**

PUBLIC 9

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNEIDER	OTP-AM	S-7

LD 141 clarifies the process for awarding public improvement contracts in unusual and emergency situations.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-7)

This amendment allows the competitive bidding process for public improvement contracts to be waived by the Director of the Bureau of General Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in emergency circumstances only, and removes the language relating to unusual circumstances.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 9 allows the competitive bidding process for public improvement contracts to be waived by the Director of the Bureau of General Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in emergency circumstances.

LD 142 Resolve, To Improve the Professional Development of County Officials

RESOLVE 3

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

LD 142 directs the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission to establish a working group to examine the professional development available to county officials and make recommendations on how to improve professional development, including the possibility of requiring new qualifications and updating those currently required for county officials. The working group shall also consider the feasibility of having county officials appointed where election is the current method of selection. The working group shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 15, 2008. The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government may report out legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 3 directs the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission to establish a working group to examine the professional development available to county officials and make recommendations on how to improve professional development, including the possibility of requiring new qualifications and updating those currently required for county officials. The working group shall also consider the feasibility of having county officials appointed where election is the current method of selection. The working group shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 15, 2008. The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government may report out legislation.

LD 154 An Act To Provide Reinstatement of Group Life Insurance for Public Employees Returning from Unpaid Military Leave

PUBLIC 17

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BARSTOW	OTP-AM	H-9

LD 154 allows group life insurance to be reinstated for public employees returning from unpaid military leave without the employees having to provide evidence of insurability.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-9)

This amendment adds employees of participating local districts to those public employees whose group life insurance must be automatically reinstated when returning from unpaid military leave without having to provide evidence of insurability. It also makes the bill retroactive to any employee who is on military leave on or after January 1, 2007.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 17 allows group life insurance to be reinstated for public employees and employees of participating local districts returning from unpaid military leave without the employees having to provide evidence of insurability. The law is retroactive to cover any employee who is on military leave on or after January 1, 2007.

LD 202 An Act To Allow the Municipal Clerk To Inspect Municipal Election Ballots

PUBLIC 19

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLANCHARD SCHNEIDER	OTP-AM	H-8

LD 202 requires municipal clerks to inspect ballots prior to municipal elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-8)

This amendment allows municipal clerks to inspect ballots prior to municipal elections rather than requiring them to do so.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 19 allows municipal clerks to inspect ballots prior to municipal elections.