

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 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

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 183 An Act To Protect Consumers in the Home Appraisal Process

ONTP

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

This bill requires that appraisers physically inspect real estate on site while preparing an appraisal of that property for a financial institution or creditor that imposes a fee on the consumer for the appraisal.

LD 253 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Research, Economic Development and the Innovation Economy

PUBLIC 420

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-196
		S-368 ROTUNDO

This bill implements recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Research, Economic Development and the Innovation Economy. The bill establishes the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board in statute. It amends the membership of the Maine Economic Growth Council to add a member from the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board. It requires the Maine Economic Growth Council to develop research and development budgetary recommendations. It sets a minimum recommendation level for research and development for the Governor's proposed budget to the Legislature. It requires an annual progress report relating to the 5-year evaluation of state investments in research and development.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-196)

This amendment replaces sections 7 and 8 of the bill and changes the membership of the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board from 19 members to the Director of the Maine Technology Institute, the Director of the Office of Innovation and 30 members appointed by the Governor with a variety of expertise in research and development.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-368)

This amendment removes the percentage requirements for research and development appropriations in the Governor's budget submissions and instead provides legislative intent that those requirements be included beginning in fiscal year 2009-10.

The amendment also reduces the General Fund appropriation in each fiscal year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 420 implements the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Research, Economic Development and the Innovation Economy. The law establishes the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board in statute to coordinate the State's research and development activities. The law amends the membership of the Maine Economic Growth Council to add a member from the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board and requires the Maine Economic Growth Council to develop research and development budgetary recommendations. The law includes a General Fund appropriation for the Maine Development Foundation for the additional costs associated with the Growth Council's development of specific budget recommendations for research and development and preparation of an annual accountability update. It also sets a minimum funding recommendation level for research and development in the Governor's proposed budget to the Legislature beginning in fiscal year 2008-09 and for each successive year for the next 10 fiscal years. Finally, the law requires an annual progress report relating to the 5-year evaluation of state investments in research and development.