

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs***

**LD 305      An Act To Increase the Availability of Cellular Telephone Service for Rural Residents      CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill makes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$125,000 in each year of the 2008-2009 biennium for the Department of Economic and Community Development to enter into partnerships with private businesses to install cellular telephone towers in underserved rural areas where there is currently no signal or to place cellular telephone equipment on state-owned towers in areas that lack cellular telephone service.

This bill was initially reported out of committee on a unanimous "ought to pass" vote, placed on the Senate Special Appropriations Table and carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

**LD 314      An Act To Restore Funding for the Reading Recovery Program      CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,220,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to restore state support for the Reading Recovery program.

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

**LD 315      An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve the Quality and Safety of Science and Teaching Laboratories, General Classrooms and Libraries at Maine's Public      ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNEIDER	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$62,000,000, will be used to modernize and improve the teaching laboratories, libraries and general classrooms in the University of Maine System.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

**LD 318      An Act To Provide Funds for the Coordination and Promotion of the 400th Anniversary of the Popham Colony      DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

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

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 to the Maine State Museum for the Friends of Phippsburg to support the coordination of educational programs to commemorate the 400th

## *Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

anniversary of the founding of Popham Colony.

**LD 335      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development To Stimulate Maine's Innovation Economy** **ONTP**

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

This bill implements a recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on Research, Economic Development and the Innovation Economy. The bill authorizes a bond issue of up to \$50,000,000 per year for each of the next 5 years totaling up to \$250,000,000 to be used for competitive grants to stimulate economic growth and job creation through investments in research and development and commercialization.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

**LD 357      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Land for Maine's Future Program** **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$40,000,000, will be used to recapitalize the Land for Maine's Future program over 2 years to continue the State's land conservation efforts, leveraging a minimum of \$20,000,000 in required matching funds.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

**LD 374      An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine-Canada Trade Ombudsman** **ONTP**

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

LD 374 makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$108,638 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$148,284 in fiscal year 2008-09 to fund the Maine-Canada Trade Ombudsman position within the Executive Department.

**LD 376      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Capitalize the Maine Marine Research Fund** **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$30,000,000, will be used to provide funds to the Maine Marine Research Fund managed by the Maine Technology Institute for the development of marine research infrastructure that supports collaboration between Maine's public, nonprofit and for-profit marine research organizations.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.