

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 344 An Act To Modify the Membership of the Franklin County Budget
Advisory Committee**

ONTP

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

LD 344 allows municipal officials other than elected officials to serve on the Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee, with the provision that a member whose position or department may be directly affected by a budget matter may not participate in a discussion or a vote on that matter.

**LD 353 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Require a 2/3 Vote of Each House of the Legislature To Enact or
Increase a Tax or License Fee**

**DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES**

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

LD 353 is a constitutional amendment to require the approval of 2/3 of all members of each House of the Legislature to enact or increase taxes or license fees except when inadequate funds have been appropriated for debt payment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-34)

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

**LD 430 An Act To Enable Unorganized Territory Townships To Become a
Municipality**

**DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES**

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

LD 430 develops a procedure for up to 3 townships in the Unorganized Territory to organize as a municipality.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-175)

This amendment removes the requirement for a census to establish the resident population of the unincorporated township or townships. It prohibits the inclusion of a township without a resident population from the proposed municipality. County commissioners are required to send notice to all residents in the unincorporated township or townships discussing possible organization. Notice of the organizational meetings and public hearing must be mailed to the fiscal administrator of the unorganized territory, the director of schools in the unorganized territory, the supervisor of the unorganized territory property tax division, the director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and a representative from a statewide organization representing municipalities appointed by the county commissioners. The amendment also requires that the effective date of organization be included in the organization procedure and specifies that the question must be in the referendum to finally approve organization.