

# 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 JUDICIARY**

July 2007

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

# 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 Judiciary

## LD 433 An Act To Amend the Bond Requirements for Estates of Decedents

PUBLIC 154

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HASTINGS          | OTP-AM                  | S-76                      |

LD 433 eliminates the requirement that a personal representative of a decedent's taxable estate obtain a bond to secure the payment of estate taxes if the Judge of Probate finds that any estate tax due is not secured by the State's estate tax lien upon real estate in the decedent's estate, since all property of a decedent of the State is already charged with a lien benefiting the State for all taxes, interest or penalties that are or may become due regardless of whether the property is real or otherwise.

### Committee Amendment "A" (S-76)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment clarifies that a Probate Court need not require a personal representative of a decedent's estate to give a bond to secure the payment of estate taxes if the Probate Court finds that any estate tax due is secured by the statutory estate tax lien upon real property in the decedent's estate or by other adequate security.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 154 clarifies that a Probate Court need not require a personal representative of a decedent's estate to give a bond to secure the payment of estate taxes if the Probate Court finds that any estate tax due is secured by the statutory estate tax lien upon real property in the decedent's estate or by other adequate security.

## LD 461 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Human Trafficking Task Force

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                   |                         | H-488                     |

LD 461 contains the recommendations of the Human Trafficking Task Force. The bill proposes to:

1. Enact a law criminalizing involuntary servitude and human trafficking, making them Class B offenses, with enhancement to Class A in certain circumstances, and specifying certain defenses that do not apply to involuntary servitude or human trafficking offenses;
2. Authorize the court to order forfeiture of assets acquired as a result of human trafficking;
3. Give the human trafficking victim rights, restitution and the right to collect damages and compensation through criminal restitution law and the Victims Compensation Fund and require rulemaking by the Department of Labor for the purposes of victim restitution;
4. Prohibit travel agencies operating within the State from advertising or arranging for travel for commercial sexual purposes;
5. Require commercial international matchmaking organizations operating within the State to inform recruits and clients of the right to information on the other person's criminal, marital, protection from abuse, harassment and other official records;