

# 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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

Research and Economic Development and authorizes that committee to submit legislation on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

## Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 96 directs the Commissioner of Labor to convene a task force to evaluate and recommend changes to the statutory definition of service dog in the Maine Revised Statutes. It provides that the task force must be staffed and coordinated by the Department of Labor and must include a variety of state and local stakeholders to review the following issues within the parameters of applicable federal and state laws: criteria or documentation that town clerks must use to verify a dog as a service animal to qualify for the license fee exemption; proposed revisions to the Maine Revised Statutes to clarify the rights of and protections for people with disabilities who use service animals; proposed revisions necessary to the Maine Revised Statutes to provide clarification to business owners of their rights and responsibilities concerning service animals; and proposals for any specific criteria that may be required for consideration by medical practitioners when prescribing the use of a service animal. This resolve requires the commissioner to submit a report following this review by January 15, 2008 to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development and authorizes that committee to submit legislation on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

### LD 385 An Act To Require Stable Gasoline Pricing

ONTP

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

This bill requires a retail seller of motor fuel to post the price of the fuel by 6 a.m. each day and prohibits the price from changing until after midnight of that day. Failure to comply is a civil violation, punishable by a maximum fine of \$100.

### LD 428 An Act To Conserve Energy in Maine Households

ONTP

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

This bill establishes the Weatherization Assistance Program to provide funds or materials to eligible households to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of those eligible households. The program is administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. The program is funded by an annual allocation of \$7,500,000 of the funds from the real estate transfer tax that are transferred to the Maine State Housing Authority.

### LD 441 An Act To Restructure the Board of Commissioners of the Maine State Housing Authority To Closely Match Local

PUBLIC 101  
EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBS	OTP-AM	S-33

This bill changes the number of commissioners on the Maine State Housing Authority appointed by the Governor from 5 to 7, 2 of whom must be representatives of low-income people, to match the number of commissioners on local authorities. It also changes the manner in which the chair of the commissioners is chosen.

# Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

## Committee Amendment "A" (S-33)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause and replaces the bill. It increases the number of commissioners on the Maine State Housing Authority from 7 to 10 commissioners, increases the number appointed by the Governor from 5 to 8 and requires that at least 3 appointments be given to a representative of bankers, the elderly and a resident of subsidized housing. It requires that of the 5 remaining gubernatorial appointments, priority be given to a representative involved in the housing business and a representative of the disability community. It requires that the director of the Maine State Housing Authority serve as an exofficio, nonvoting member and the Treasurer of State serve as an exofficio voting member. It requires the Governor to appoint the chair of the commissioners from among the 8 gubernatorial appointments and provides that the chair serve as a nonvoting member, except that the chair may vote only to break a tie. It also increases the number of commissioners necessary for a quorum from 4 to 5.

## Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 101 increases the number of commissioners on the Maine State Housing Authority from 7 to 10 commissioners, increases the number appointed by the Governor from 5 to 8 and requires that at least 3 appointments be given to a representative of bankers, the elderly and a resident of subsidized housing. It also requires that of the 5 remaining gubernatorial appointments, priority be given to a representative involved in the housing business and a representative of the disability community. It requires that the director of the Maine State Housing Authority serve as an exofficio, nonvoting member and the Treasurer of State serve as an exofficio voting member. The law requires the Governor to appoint the chair of the commissioners from among the 8 gubernatorial appointments and provides that the chair serve as a nonvoting member, except that the chair may vote only to break a tie. The law also increases the number of commissioners necessary for a quorum from 4 to 5.

Public Law 2007, chapter 101 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 11, 2007.

## LD 449      **Resolve, To Support Creative Economy Businesses**

**RESOLVE 97**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAUDETTE	OTP-AM	H-473

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to develop an approach to make creative space more available and affordable for those who are involved in the creative economy. Under this bill, the Maine Arts Commission would work in concert with groups of individuals involved in similar creative media, disciplines or arts to keep costs down and enhance creativity and economic stability for those individuals.

## LD 451      **An Act To Support the Creative Economy Effort**

**ONTP**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to provide funding for the establishment of a system to provide a creative space or hub in towns with fewer than 10,000 residents in order to facilitate growth of small creative economy businesses and to support the revitalization, stability and growth of the towns' downtown centers. The funds will be coordinated by the Maine Arts Commission and be available upon application and approval to towns and to qualified nonprofit organizations.