

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 LEGAL AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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* Representative Stacey Fitts replaced former Representative Abigail Holman on the Legal and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

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 Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 491 An Act To Set Limits on Political Action Committee Contributions

ONTP

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

This bill limits contributions to a political action committee by:

1. Limiting the aggregate amount of contributions from any one source to \$1,000 in a primary campaign and \$1,000 in a campaign for a general election; and
2. Limiting the aggregate amount of contributions from any one source to \$500 for promoting a leadership campaign

LD 508 An Act Concerning Citizens' Initiatives and Public Disclosure of Influence

ONTP

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

This bill raises the amount of contributions or expenditures that triggers the requirement for a person not defined as a political committee but who solicits contributions or makes expenditures to influence a ballot question to file a report with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The bill also classifies in-kind expenditures and staff time as expenditures for purposes of reporting and requires the identification of contributions that make up a difference when contributions exceed expenditures by more than \$5,000.

The proposal in this bill is being considered with LD 1394 which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 557 An Act To Increase the Penalty for Late Filings by Lobbyists BY REQUEST

ONTP

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

This bill increases the penalty for late filings by a lobbyist from \$100 to \$200. This bill increases from \$100 to \$200 the penalty that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may impose upon a lobbyist who fails to file a report on time. This penalty would be assessed for each person who should be listed in the report for each month that the report is not filed. Current law requires lobbyists to file monthly reports. Detailed reports are required during the time when the Legislature is in session. Reports in lesser detail are required when the Legislature is not in session if no lobbying activity was conducted during that time. Annual reports are also required which are filed jointly with the lobbyist's employer.