

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than November 30, 2007. The Secretary of State must include with the report draft legislation to make appropriate changes to law to implement the recommendations of the working group. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit a bill related to the subject matter of the working group's report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 496 An Act To Exempt Emergency Vehicles from Tolls on the Maine Turnpike

ONTP

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

This bill exempts a municipality's emergency vehicles from tolls on the Maine Turnpike if that municipality provides emergency services to the Maine Turnpike Authority.

LD 497 An Act To Allow Funeral Processions To Use Certain Lights

PUBLIC 62

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANLEY S	OTP-AM	H-47

This bill allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for alternate flashing of the vehicle's headlights or a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is owned and operated by a licensed funeral home.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-47)

This amendment allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is operated by a licensed funeral home.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 62 allows a lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a device that provides for a white flashing strobe light in the front grille if that vehicle is operated by a licensed funeral home.

LD 511 An Act To Study the Feasibility of Locating a New Bridge in the St. David Area

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THERIAULT		H-17

This bill allocates funds from the Highway Fund for the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of locating a new bridge in the St. David area and specifies that any unspent funds not needed for the costs of the study are to be used for the costs of an environmental impact study required by the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The bill also allocates funds to the Madawaska Bridge Committee to defray expenses incurred by the committee in its effort to locate a new bridge in the St. David area.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-17)

The amendment eliminates the appropriation of funds from the Highway Fund to the Madawaska Bridge Committee that was included in the bill to defray expenses incurred by the committee in its effort to locate a new bridge in the

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

St. David area.

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

LD 513 An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

PUBLIC 383

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAMON	OTP-AM	S-242

This bill:

1. Creates a definition of "sport utility vehicle" for registration purposes and clarifies that a sport utility vehicle may be registered either as an automobile or as a truck. A sport utility vehicle used in a commercial enterprise with a weight in excess of 10,000 pounds must be registered as a truck according to its actual weight;
2. Clarifies that a pickup truck, which by definition has a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less, hauling a trailer registered for 2,000 pounds or less may be operated at the combined weight;
3. Makes minor adjustments to the truck and farm truck registration brackets to create a bracket at 10,000 pounds. Many federal safety requirements become effective at 10,001 pounds;
4. Clarifies that special veteran vehicle registration plates may be issued to a company under certain conditions;
5. Removes the fee for the Pearl Harbor Survivor vehicle registration plate;
6. Resolves a conflict in implementation dates for the issuance of titles for manufactured housing;
7. Resolves a conflict regarding the mailing of lien certificates;
8. Makes a technical change to ensure compliance with the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 and regulations adopted thereto;
9. Clarifies that a 3rd or subsequent offense committed by an adult while holding a provisional license requires a 90-day driver license suspension; and
10. Clarifies that a 3rd or subsequent offense committed by a juvenile while holding a provisional license requires a 90-day driver license suspension.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-242)

This amendment:

1. Removes the section of the bill that would have amended the law regarding when the State must begin issuing the title for manufactured housing (this matter was dealt with in the Error's Bill, LD 1904, handled by the Judiciary Committee);
2. Establishes definitions of commercial-vehicle-class and non-commercial-vehicle-class school buses. This revision reflects changes in the federal commercial driver's license requirements for school buses rated as