

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

19. Makes a variety of changes to the specialty plate and recognition plate laws: it makes it clear that a proposed plate must be reviewed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters and approved by the Legislature; requires supporters to sign and date a statement declaring that they intend to purchase and display the plate; requires that signatures be no more than 2 years old when submitted; increases the plate fee from \$20 to \$25 and clarifies that each supporter must contribute \$25; makes the total \$50,000 prepayment nonrefundable; increases the weight restriction to 10,000 lbs; retires new specialty plates after 10 years or if the number of plates falls below 4,000 plates for more than one year; and provides that all requirements of the law must be met for each version or class of plate; and
20. Provides that a sponsor who, as of June 1, 2007, has registered with the Secretary of State as a sponsor of a specialty plate or recognition plate under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 468, subsection 1 or section 468-A, subsection 2 may meet the requirements of Title 29-A, section 468 or section 468-A, as applicable, that were in effect on June 1, 2007. A sponsor who registered with the Secretary of State prior to June 1, 2005 has until January 1, 2008 to meet those requirements that were in effect on June 1, 2007. A sponsor who registered with the Secretary of State on or after June 1, 2005 has until 2 years from the date of registration to meet those requirements that were in effect on June 1, 2007. If the sponsor fails to meet those requirements within the applicable time frame, the sponsor becomes subject to the new requirements established under this amendment.

LD 524 An Act To Establish the Fee for Commercial Inspections for Farm Trucks

PUBLIC 190

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH NUTTING J	OTP-AM	H-183

This bill exempts farm trucks from commercial vehicle inspections, but retains the regular inspection requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-183)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title to reflect the content of the amendment. This amendment establishes the fee for commercial inspections of farm trucks. Under current law, the fee for a commercial inspection is based on the inspector's normal hourly rate. The amendment sets the fee at \$45.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 190 establishes the fee for commercial inspections of farm trucks. Under current law, the fee for a commercial inspection is based on the inspector's normal hourly rate. The amendment sets the fee at \$45.

LD 532 Resolve, To Create a Plan for the Downeast Airport Authority

ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Transportation to create a plan to establish the Downeast Airport Authority for a regional commercial public airport in Washington County. The commissioner shall present the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the