

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

commercial groundfishing boat from the sales tax for fiscal year 2007-08. “Commercial groundfishing boat” is defined as a boat that is licensed to harvest and is used for harvesting northeast multispecies fish.

PART XXXX provides a framework for the reorganization of school administrative units into regional school units to maximize efficiencies in administrative and other noninstructional areas of kindergarten to grade 12 education.

Part YYYYY adjusts the appropriation made in Part A relating to the Maine Community College System and makes an appropriation and an allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services that were inadvertently omitted from Part A.

Public Law 2007, chapter 240 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 7, 2007, except as otherwise indicated.

LD 501 An Act To Provide Relief to the Commuters on Casco Bay Islands

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MARLEY | ONTP | |

This bill makes ongoing appropriations to the Casco Bay Island Transit District to stabilize passenger, vehicle and freight rates and to make ferry transportation affordable to year-round residents served by the transit district.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar provision in the bond proposal.

LD 502 An Act To Ensure That Maine Residents Have Reliable Winter Heating Assistance

ONTP

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$17,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to the Maine State Housing Authority for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to provide necessary heating assistance funding for Maine residents in a timely manner. Funding received from the Federal Government for LIHEAP must be used to offset the General Fund appropriation.

LD 538 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Increased Research and Development Collaboration between the Environmental and Energy Technology Sector and the University of Maine System

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BLISS | ONTP | |

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,000,000, will be used to promote increased research and development collaboration between the environmental and energy technology sector of the State and the University of Maine System.