

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

LD 667 An Act To Modify the Motor Vehicle Insurance Cancellation Notification Law ONTP

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

This bill reverses the changes to the statutes involving insurance cancellation notification made by Public Law 2005, chapter 428. The substance of this bill was incorporated into LD 781 (see Part M of finally enacted version of that bill).

LD 669 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Transportation To Make Improvements to U.S. Route 2-A ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to authorize the release of the funds needed to improve U.S. Route 2-A in Houlton as was agreed upon in a memorandum of agreement between the town and the department.

LD 694 An Act Regarding Fines for Overweight Trucks ONTP

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

This bill provides that if a vehicle exceeds the limits for both gross vehicle weight and axle weight then the lower of the 2 fines applies.

LD 706 An Act To Support New Drivers ONTP

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

This bill requires that a motor vehicle driven by a person who has a learner's permit must have a placard on it indicating that the driver is a student driver. The bill also requires the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish rules governing the use of the placard.

LD 740 An Act To Promote the Safety of Deaf or Hard-of-hearing Drivers PUBLIC 123

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GROSE NUTTING J	OTP-AM	H-98

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

This bill requires the Secretary of State, for a person who has documentation from a physician that the person is deaf or hard-of-hearing, to place a coded notation of that fact on that person's license.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-98)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires the Secretary of State, at the request of a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, to issue a sticker to that person to place in a location designated by the Secretary of State on the back of the person's driver's license to indicate that the person is deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 123 requires the Secretary of State, at the request of a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, to issue a sticker to that person to place in a location designated by the Secretary of State on the back of the person's driver's license to indicate that the person is deaf or hard-of-hearing.

**LD 741 An Act Regarding When an Overweight Truck May Be Required To ACCEPTED ONTP
Unload Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON BRYANT B	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

The bill allows a state police officer to permit an overweight combination vehicle consisting of a 3-axle truck tractor with a tri-axle semitrailer to proceed without unloading if the vehicle does not exceed by more than 10% the gross vehicle weight allowed in law.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-126)

This amendment, which was the minority report of the Transportation Committee, incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 766 An Act To Permit Operation of a Modified Show Vehicle on a Public ONTP
Way**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP	

The bill directs the Chief of the State Police to adopt major substantive rules to allow the operation of a modified show vehicle on a public way for the purposes of participating in a modified show vehicle event, off-road competition or racing event. The bill also provides for a limited inspection of a modified show vehicle.

**LD 775 An Act To Create a Special License Plate To Support Breast Cancer CARRIED OVER
Support Services**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STRANG BURGESS DAMON		

This bill creates a special Breast Cancer Support Services license plate to support breast cancer support services in the State. The beneficiaries of the program are the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's Support Service Fund, the Maine Cancer Foundation and the Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program within the Department of Health and