

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

LD 744 An Act To Stabilize and Expand Funding for the Graduate School of Biomedical Science at the University of Maine **CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$4,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to the University of Maine System to stabilize and expand the Graduate School of Biomedical Science through the formation of a partnership with the University of New England to collaborate on a school of pharmacy.

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

LD 745 An Act To Expand the Maine Economic Improvement Fund **ONTP**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$10,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to the University of Maine System to increase the amount of funding available for research and development in the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Public Law 2007, chapter 240 provided funding for a similar initiative.

LD 746 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Finance the Acquisition of Land and Water Access and To Access Matching Contributions **ONTP**

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

The purpose of this legislation is to recapitalize the Land for Maine's Future program with \$75,000,000 over 3 years to continue Maine's land conservation efforts, leveraging a minimum of \$37,500,000 in required matching funds.

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

LD 747 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Municipal Investment Trust Fund **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to finance the Municipal Investment Trust Fund so that an eligible municipality or group of municipalities may apply for a public service infrastructure grant or loan.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

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

LD 777 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Affordable Rental Housing **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, will be used to establish affordable rental housing through the Maine State Housing Authority.

LD 782 An Act To Establish a New Method of Determining the State Budget **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 782 shifts the start of the fiscal biennium for the state budget from the first regular session of the Legislature to the second regular session of the Legislature, beginning for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2010. This bill also provides that the state budget beginning on July 1, 2009 is a one-year budget.

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

LD 793 An Act To Provide Essential Library Resources to All Maine Communities **CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Maine State Library for grants to improve library collections throughout the State, to support interlibrary deliveries, to digitize materials for preservation and statewide access, to improve online data resources and to improve area reference and resource centers. The bill also provides funds for 2 librarian positions.

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

LD 800 An Act To Enhance the Maine State Grant Program **ONTP**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$9,600,000 per year to the Finance Authority of Maine for the Maine State Grant Program to enhance postsecondary educational opportunities for Maine students attending Maine colleges and universities.