

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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 768 An Act To Ensure That Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits Are Not Extended to Businesses That Compete with Existing Maine Businesses

PUBLIC 263

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS P	OTP-AM	S-154

This bill provides that a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business must demonstrate that its development within a Pine Tree Development Zone will not result in a substantial detriment to any other business in the State. A business aggrieved by a decision of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development that there will not be a substantial detriment to any other business in the State may appeal that decision to Superior Court.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-154)

This amendment deletes the statutory cross-reference to employment tax increment financing and inserts similar statutory language in Pine Tree Development Zone requirements for certification of a qualified business. The amendment requires that prior to certification of a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development with assistance from the State Economist must determine that the proposed business activity will not result in a substantial detriment to existing businesses in the State. This amendment deletes the section of the bill that provided an express right of appeal to the Superior Court from decisions made by the commissioner regarding certification of qualified businesses.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 263 amends the Pine Tree Development Zone statutory requirements for certification of a qualified business. The law requires that prior to certification of a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, with assistance from the State Economist, must determine that the proposed business activity will not result in a substantial detriment to existing businesses in the State.

LD 790 An Act To Strengthen Rural Community Investment

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE		S-52

This bill requires Maine Rural Partners to:

1. Complete pilot projects underway in the Town of Strong and Washington County to build innovative strategic plans and to create community investment mechanisms;
2. Prepare an analysis of the potential for attracting and leveraging investment in rural Maine communities; and
3. Make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor regarding methods of encouraging such investment.

This bill also makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to be used to support Maine Rural Partners in carrying out its mission of strengthening rural community capacity and exploring innovative community investment mechanisms.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (S-52)

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 794 An Act To Provide Representation by a Mechanic or Installer on the Manufactured Housing Board ONTP

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

This bill expands the membership of the Manufactured Housing Board from 9 to 10 members in order to provide for the appointment of a licensed installer or mechanic to the board. The bill also changes the quorum from 5 to 6 to reflect the additional member on the board.

LD 803 An Act To Stimulate the Economy in the St. John Valley ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to promote economic growth in the St. John Valley. Specifically, the bill would authorize Aroostook County to send out to the voters a bond issue for economic development. The bond amount is to be determined by Aroostook County Commissioners.

LD 820 An Act To Amend the Funeral Service Licensing Laws ONTP

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

This bill allows individuals who own closed hearses or other appropriate vehicles to transport human remains in sealed containers from a licensed funeral establishment to a location in or outside the State without being required to become licensed by the State Board of Funeral Service.

LD 831 An Act Regarding Ticket Refunds ONTP

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

This bill requires that a ticket for an event at a venue that has at least a 1,000-person capacity have a clearly legible telephone number printed on it for a purchaser to call at no cost to obtain refund information.