

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 801 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Infrastructure Improvements for Canton Village and To Provide Funding for the CareerCenter in Rumford**

ONTP

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

Part A of this bill provides funds through a bond issue in the amount of \$2,000,000 to be used for infrastructure improvements for Canton Village to assist in the town's flood recovery and prevention efforts.

Part B of this bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$159,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$200,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2008-09 for 3 Career Center Consultant positions and related All Other for the career center in Rumford effective October 1, 2007.

**LD 804 An Act To Ensure Responsible Government Spending and Investment**

CARRIED OVER

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

Part A of this bill establishes new procedures to govern the act of exceeding or increasing the various spending limitations that currently apply to state, county, municipal and school governments. On the state level, Part A establishes a system to make the determination of compliance with the spending limitation system an accurate year-to-year comparison if the Legislature decides to fund a General Fund expenditure outside of the General Fund appropriation process. For counties, schools and municipalities, the existing approval procedures to exceed the current spending limitations would still be required, but, if the local government was proposing to exceed or increase the applicable limitation and the local government was the recipient of net new funding from the State, the approval would have to be accomplished by a referendum vote. For municipal and school governments, a 2/3 vote of the legislative body, such as the town meeting or school district meeting or city council, would avoid the need to obtain a referendum approval of the budget.

Part B of this bill establishes a 5% limit on the amount of General Fund and Highway Fund revenues that may be allocated for tax-supported debt service in any fiscal year. Part B also directs the State Treasurer to annually calculate and report to the Legislature on the aggregate unfunded actuarial liability of the State, taking into consideration health and life insurance and pension benefits that are scheduled to be provided to retired state employees, teachers and other governmental workers provided benefits pursuant to state law.

Part C of this bill establishes as a goal a 10% reduction by the year 2010 in the statewide expenditure for educational administrative services in kindergarten to grade 12 public education as that expenditure is measured as a percent of total personal income. It establishes goals for specific categories of costs and services. It also establishes a comprehensive system of analysis, recommendation, outreach and implementation to be accomplished on the local level through the creation of regional planning alliances to achieve that goal within the 26 career and technical education regions in Maine. If the cost reduction goal is not achieved, the Commissioner of Education must submit a plan to the Legislature to achieve the cost reductions.

Part D of this bill amends the law governing the responsibilities of the Executive Department, State Planning Office to collect data and report about the effects of government spending limitation law on Maine's overall tax burden. It also requires the State Planning Office to work with the Maine Development Foundation to prepare the required compliance reports in a manner designed to be accessible to the general public. It also requires the State Planning

## *Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

Office to perform calculations of Maine's state and local government employment and expenditure levels in comparison with other states for the purpose of identifying categories of government employment and expenditure that deviate significantly from national and peer state averages. Finally, it directs the State Planning Office, working in conjunction with Maine Revenue Services, to establish a contract with the Maine Development Foundation to comprehensively analyze the sources of government revenue available to each state in the United States, including Maine, with a focus on comparing the various state and local taxes and fees in terms of nominal revenues by category, tax and revenue burdens, rates of taxes and fee schedules and levels of reliance and exportation.

This bill is carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369. The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs requested the Joint Select Committee on Prosperity consider this bill in the conduct of their deliberations.

**LD 806      An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Maine Biomedical Research Fund to Create Jobs and Strengthen Maine's Economy** **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$75,000,000 to stimulate economic growth and job creation through investments to support capital infrastructure and equipment for medical research and development, will be used to provide funds for the Maine Biomedical Research Fund. The bonds will be issued in 5 increments of \$15,000,000 each during the next 5 years in anticipation of approximately \$150,000,000 in federal and private funds.

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

**LD 817      An Act To Support the Maine Keeping Seniors Home Program** **CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill makes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$350,000 in fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 to the Department of Health and Human Services for the statewide Keeping Seniors Home program administered by Western Maine Community Action, Inc.

This bill was initially reported out of committee on a unanimous "ought to pass" vote, placed on the Senate Special Appropriations Table and carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

**LD 818      An Act To Provide Support for the Volunteer Medical Ride Network** **ONTP**

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

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 for direct grants to local area agencies on aging to support the volunteer medical ride network. These funds are to be distributed to each area agency on aging via the guidelines identified in the federal Older Americans Act of 1965. The funds will be used to