

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

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

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support and expand a volunteer medical ride network focused on using volunteers to transport Maine's elderly to health care services such as kidney dialysis and cancer therapy.

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

LD 819 An Act To Provide Supplemental Funding for Mileage Reimbursement for Volunteers for Meals on Wheels Programs ONTP

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

This bill appropriates funds to reimburse volunteers for meals on wheels programs for increased travel expenses resulting from increased motor fuel costs.

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

LD 858 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the University of Maine for Research and Development ONTP

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$66,214,500, are to be used for research and development purposes by the University of Maine System for biotechnology, aquaculture, information technology, precision manufacturing, forestry and agriculture and geographic information systems for strategic economic development.

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

LD 862 An Act To Improve Health Care for Maine Children through the Expansion of School-based Health Care Centers ONTP

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$443,687 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$713,597 beginning in fiscal year 2008-09 to support 20 school-based health centers in fiscal year 2007-08 and 25 school-based health centers in fiscal year 2008-09 as well as additional funding for planning grants, data evaluation and technical assistance contracts.

Public Law 2007, chapter 240 provided funding for a similar initiative in the FHM - Bureau of Health account.

LD 863 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Acquiring Land and Water Access through the Land for Maine's Future Program ONTP

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