

# 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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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 Business, Research and Economic Development**

**LD 833      An Act To Support the Maine Patent Program**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FISCHER HOBBINS	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-225
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The bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 for the University of Maine School of Law's Maine Patent Program.

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

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-225)**

This amendment replaces the appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 851      An Act To Facilitate the Upgrading and Preservation of Existing Building Structures**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS P	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to adopt a uniform fire and life safety code based on standards established by the International Code Council. It repeals the provision of law that requires fire and safety codes to be enforced instead of the Model Building Code when there exists a conflict between the codes. It also requires the commissioner to adopt rules for the modification of existing building structures that allow for the preservation of artistic and architectural integrity of historical building structures and for varying degrees of safety requirements depending on the type of construction and the level of risk that may arise from variations in building type and intensity of use.

**LD 855      An Act To Require the Maine State Housing Authority To Perform a Comprehensive Resource and Needs Assessment for Housing for Special Needs Populations That Are Not Homeless**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STRIMLING	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to periodically perform a comprehensive resource and needs assessment for housing for special needs populations that are not homeless.

**LD 918      Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development To Convene a Working Group To Explore Regionalization**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BARSTOW STRIMLING	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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This bill directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group to explore efficiencies and benefits to be gained through regionalization. The working group is directed to examine