

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 EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL 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 Education and Cultural Affairs

LD 909 An Act To Support Central Maine Community College

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-146

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 per year to fund a full-time counselor and administrator position at Central Maine Community College to work to increase the student population at the college and to fund transportation costs, advertising and clerical support.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-146)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 910 An Act To Permit Public Schools in the Lower Kennebec River Area To Regionalize To Achieve Efficiency and Improve Quality

P & S 25

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERCY BENOIT	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-589

This bill allows a school administrative unit that is a municipality or school administrative district to combine with another school administrative district to create a larger school administrative district.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-589)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes and replaces the bill to authorize the school administrative units of the City of Bath and the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich to merge into and organize as a single regional school unit to become operative July 1, 2008. The amendment provides that, upon a vote of the residents of these municipalities, the respective school administrative units become participating members of this regional school unit.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 25 authorizes the school administrative units of the City of Bath and the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich to merge into and organize as a single regional school unit to become operative July 1, 2008. The law provides that, upon a vote of the residents of these municipalities, the respective school administrative units become participating members of this regional school unit.

LD 928 An Act To Make Higher Education More Efficient and More Economical

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill seeks to examine how the governance of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System may be combined and consolidated, including a merger of the trustees of the 2 systems, to effectuate a more efficient use of tax dollars and to reduce tuition payments by students.