

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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PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JILL IPPOLITI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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 929 An Act To Promote Legal Services in Rural Maine

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$90,750 for fiscal year 2007-08 and \$199,650 for fiscal year 2008-09 to provide loans under the Attorneys for Maine Program for up to 5 law students at the University of Maine School of Law who have received baccalaureate degrees from the University of Maine campuses at Presque Isle, Machias, Fort Kent and Farmington. The Attorneys for Maine Program also allows for a loan given under the program to be forgiven if a loan recipient provides legal services in an underserved area of the State for 5 years after receiving a juris doctor degree.

LD 930 An Act To Regionalize Supervision of Students in the Unorganized Territory

ONTP

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

This bill establishes a 4-district school administrative system for the unorganized territory. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop rules to transfer state management of the school systems in the unorganized territory to these 4 districts. The commissioner is required to submit to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature provisionally adopted rules and proposed legislation necessary to accomplish this transfer of responsibility. The Joint Standing Committee on Education is authorized to report out a bill related to the unorganized territory school district system to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 947 Resolve, To Prepare Students for Success in the Twenty-first Century

ONTP

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

This resolve:

1. Creates the Bipartisan School Redistricting Panel to redraw school administrative units to eliminate all units that serve under 3,000 students;
2. Directs the Department of Education to create a student investment account program that creates investment accounts for each child born in the State for use by residents for postsecondary education at institutions of higher learning located in the State and endows each account with \$200;
3. Directs the Department of Education to create a tuition assistance program in which each graduating high school student who demonstrates financial need and is accepted into an associate's or bachelor's program in a postsecondary institution in the State will receive an amount equal to 50% of the average tuition for 2 years at the Maine Community College System, and those students pursuing teaching certificates and committing to teaching in the State for 3 years after graduation will receive an additional 50% of the average tuition for 2 years at the Maine Community College System for their junior and senior years;