

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 TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation

LD 922 An Act To Permit a Noncommercial Agricultural Designation for Certain License Plates **ONTP**

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

This bill permits the issuance of a license plate with a noncommercial agricultural designation for a tractor, truck or trailer that is used for noncommercial agricultural conveyance of livestock and that is over 10,000 pounds in weight.

LD 938 An Act To Delay the Effective Date of Changes to Motor Vehicle Inspection Rules **PUBLIC 135**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT	OTP-AM	H-156

This bill requires an inspection mechanic or inspection station to have a copy of an inspection rule adopted by the Chief of the State Police for 5 days before enforcing the rule.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title to reflect the content of the amendment. The amendment provides that inspection rules, other than emergency rules, adopted by the Chief of the State Police take effect 30 days after the filing of the rules with the Secretary of State.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 135 provides that inspection rules, other than emergency rules, adopted by the Chief of the State Police take effect 30 days after the filing of the rules with the Secretary of State.

LD 939 An Act To Permit Front-wheel Drive Vehicles To Have Front Studded Snow Tires Only **ONTP**

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

This bill allows a front-wheel drive vehicle to have studded snow tires only on its front wheels.

LD 956 An Act To Increase Compliance with Truck Weight Limits **ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERRY J	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

This bill requires a commercial motor vehicle that is transporting a load to be weighed at its initial point of departure or at a weighing point designated by the Chief of the State Police. The initial weight must be recorded and submitted to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police. The bill also gives the Commissioner of

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Public Safety the authority to adopt rules to implement this legislation.

**LD 963 An Act To Prohibit Construction Companies from Using Certain Heavy
Equipment in Residential Neighborhoods**

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This bill prohibits the use of pavement reclaimers and vibratory rollers in the construction, maintenance or repair of a street or road in an area zoned as residential. This bill also presumes liability on a general contractor responsible for road construction, maintenance or repair if that activity, including blasting, damages private property, with the exception of a municipality or state agency that directly performs construction, maintenance or repair of a road without subcontracting to a private entity.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-310)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, replaces the bill. The amendment removes the portion of the bill prohibiting the use of certain construction equipment in residential areas. The amendment clarifies and moves to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14 the provision of the bill relating to the liability of a general contractor for damages caused by road building, maintenance and repair activities. The amendment provides that a general contractor undertaking the construction, maintenance or repair of a public way pursuant to a contract with a governmental entity is presumed liable for property damage caused by that activity, including but not limited to damage to buildings or structures resulting from vibrations created by the use of machinery or from blasting. The amendment specifies that this provision does not alter immunity or liability of a governmental entity under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

**LD 964 An Act To Establish a Special License Plate To Honor Maine Residents
Serving Our Country**

**PUBLIC 229
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PILON	OTP-AM	H-223

This bill authorizes the issuance of a special registration plate to raise funds for members of the Maine National Guard and their families and residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. The bill establishes the We Support Our Troops Advisory Board and directs the board to determine the appropriate use of the revenue generated by the special registration plate and distribute the funds in the form of loans or grants to members of the Maine National Guard and their families and residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families.

The bill also directs the Secretary of State to copyright the design of this plate and offer the design to other states for a fee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-223)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill:

1. It removes a provision that waives the requirements of current law that a sponsor provide a list of 2,000 names of supporters who intend to buy the specialty plate and raise \$40,000 toward the cost of issuing those plates;