

# 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**

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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 1076 An Act To Encourage Expansion and Development of Maine Tourism

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MIRAMANT          | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill makes ongoing appropriations of \$3,400,000 for fiscal year 2007-08 and \$3,485,000 for fiscal year 2008-09 to the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism for additional funding for advertising to promote tourism in the State, for contracting with the University of Maine System and Maine Community College System and others to provide education and training for managers, owners and staff of tourism-related businesses and organizations and for funding of the University of Maine System, Center for Tourism Research. This bill also:

1. Requires the Governor with the assistance of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Maine Tourism Commission to report biennially on tourism in the State;
2. Changes the name of the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund to the Tourism Marketing and Development Fund and increases the fund's revenue from 5% to 8% of a portion of the sales and use tax and directs the fund to fund and annually transfer the yearly increase in its revenue to the Maine Tourism Development Fund created by this Act; and
3. Creates the Maine Tourism Development Fund to provide grants to various for-profit and nonprofit organizations and municipalities for tourism-related projects.

## LD 1077 An Act To Create a Seasonal Vendor Sales Tax Revolving Loan Fund

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MACDONALD         | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to establish a seasonal vendor loan fund in the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide loans to small seasonal retail vendors to assist them in maintaining business operations and remitting sales taxes to the State during periods that are not the peak season for the vendor. Loans would be repaid during the vendors' peak season with reasonable interest.

## LD 1106 An Act To Recapitalize the Municipal Investment Trust Fund

DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HOBBS             | OTP-AM                  | S-95                      |

This bill requires the State Controller to transfer \$5,000,000 from the undedicated revenue of the General Fund to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to capitalize the Municipal Investment Trust Fund no later than June 30, 2008.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-95)**