

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW
5 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207)287-1635

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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 1065 **Resolve, To Enhance the Education Opportunities for Maine's Early Childhood Workers** **CARRIED OVER**

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

This resolve makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$125,000 per year to increase the number of scholarships the Finance Authority of Maine awards under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund and makes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the University of Maine System to develop a degree program for those seeking training for working with preschool children with special needs. This resolve also directs the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt rules to make a nonmatriculated student eligible for a grant under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369. The bill did not have a public hearing during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

LD 1114 **An Act To Appropriate Funds for the School Breakfast Program** **ONTP**

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

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$130,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 for the School Breakfast Program within the Department of Education.

Public Law 2007, chapter 240 provided funding through the Fund for a Healthy Maine for a similar initiative.

LD 1134 **An Act To Ensure Access to the Community College for Students in Maine** **ONTP**

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

This bill makes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$7,500,000 per year in fiscal year 2007-08 and fiscal year 2008-09 necessary to eliminate the backlog of students awaiting entrance to the community college degree programs.

Public Law 2007, chapter 240 provided funding for a similar initiative.

LD 1149 **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Child Care Facilities in Maine** **ONTP**

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,000,000, will be used to establish a combination of low-interest loans and grants to develop new child care options in all communities, to bring existing facilities and programs up to higher quality standards and to assist existing programs with higher quality standards in repaying