

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed
during the Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123rd Maine
Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

May 2008

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
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**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 Second Regular or First Special Sessions of the 123rd Maine Legislature.

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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (R2) is June 30, 2008. The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (S1) is July 18, 2008.¹ The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills. Any bill summarized in this document having an LD number less than 1932 was a bill carried over from the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

¹ The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 1271 **An Act To Establish Health Care Practitioner Immunity for Consulting Physicians in Critical Specialties or Subspecialties** **ONTP**

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

LD 1271 provides limited immunity protection to a specialty or subspecialty consulting physician who provides volunteer, unpaid consultation services to a treating physician in the physician's area of expertise.

LD 1348 **An Act To Amend the Maine Tort Claims Act** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBS	JT. RULE 309	

LD 1348 raises the limitation on damages under the Maine Tort Claims Act from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. See also LD 1349.

LD 1349 **Resolve, To Waive the Tort Claims Limitation on Damages Relative to the Traumatic Brain Injury of Lucas Tolliver** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBS	JT RULE 309	

LD 1349 authorizes Lucas Tolliver to recover up to \$1,000,000 of the damage award amount allocated to the State by an October 10, 2006 Cumberland County Superior Court jury verdict in his favor. See also LD 1348.

LD 1505 **An Act To Adopt the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act** **PUBLIC 601**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBS	OTP-AM	S-527

LD 1505 enacts the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2006. Uniform Comments are included.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-527)

This amendment makes several revisions to the bill to be consistent with other Maine laws and practices, including the Maine Organ Donor Registry currently maintained by the Secretary of State, which is based on information collected through the issuance of driver's licenses. Maine Comments are inserted where appropriate.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 601 enacts the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. It includes revisions to be consistent with other Maine laws and practices, including the Maine Organ Donor Registry currently maintained by the Secretary of State. Maine Comments are inserted where appropriate. Chapter 601 provides that the Revised