

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 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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 Health and Human Services

LD 1371

Resolve, To Study the Impact of Social Services and Corrections Policies on Homeless People in Maine

**RESOLVE 131
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-201

This resolve provides funding for emergency homeless shelters. The resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Funding Issues Regarding Emergency Homeless Shelters. The commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and to the Legislative Council by December 1, 2007. The commission shall examine the issues concerning affordable housing for the homeless, the causes of and solutions for homelessness, how the money designated for homeless shelters is used and whether the funding formula for distributing funds to the homeless shelters should be amended.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-201)

This amendment replaces the resolve and changes the title. It directs the Statewide Homeless Council to coordinate a study of the connection between the increasing numbers of homeless persons in the State and the existing policies and procedures employed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections that may affect homeless persons. The study must include a review of best practices for homeless shelters and current practices used by social services and corrections agencies and facilities, including discharge practices, the rights and responsibilities of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders and best practices for housing and supportive services. The Statewide Homeless Council shall invite the participation of representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services including the Office of Substance Abuse, the Department of Corrections, the Maine State Housing Authority, representatives of hospitals in the State, statewide organizations representing homeless persons, representatives of community mental health provider agencies, homeless service providers and persons with mental illness, persons with substance abuse issues and other interested parties. The Statewide Homeless Council is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2008.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 131, which is entitled "Resolve, To Study the Impact of Social Services and Corrections Policies on Homeless People in Maine," directs the Statewide Homeless Council to coordinate a study of the connection between the increasing numbers of homeless persons in the State and the existing policies and procedures employed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections. The study must include a review of best practices for homeless shelters and current practices used by social services and corrections agencies and facilities, including discharge practices, the rights and responsibilities of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders and best practices for housing and supportive services. The Statewide Homeless Council shall invite the participation of interested parties specified in the resolve. The Statewide Homeless Council is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2008.

Resolve 2007, chapter 131 was passed as an emergency measure effective June 27, 2007.

LD 1386

An Act To Make Criminal Background Checks and Department of Health and Human Services Child Protective Substantiation Checks on Volunteers More Affordable

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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