

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 LABOR

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 Labor

LD 1373

An Act To Authorize the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System To Provide a Cost-of-living Adjustment to Retired Employees of Participating Local Districts

**P & S 17
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HASKELL	OTP-AM	H-273

Cost-of-living adjustments to retirement allowances for retirees of participating local districts under the Maine State Retirement System are currently limited to a maximum of 4%. The Consumer Price Index adjustment for September 2006 was 4.3%. This bill authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System to implement a one-time additional increase of .3% for retirees of participating local districts who were eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment in September 2006. The additional .3% increase will be paid retroactively to September 2006.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-273)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2007, Chapter 17, was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 4, 2007. This bill authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System to implement a one-time additional increase in the cost-of-living adjustment of .3% for retirees of participating local districts who were eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment in September 2006. The additional .3% increase will be paid retroactively to September 2006.

LD 1406

An Act To Improve the Retirement Benefit Plan for Children's Services Caseworkers

ONTP

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

This bill includes children's services caseworkers, supervisors and program administrators working in the Department of Health and Human Services on or hired by the department after July 1, 2007 in the 1998 Special Plan under the Maine State Retirement System. The plan's option to retire at age 55 recognizes the dangerous and stressful situations these staff face in their positions daily.

LD 1407

Resolve, To Address Issues Concerning the Employment of Senior Citizens

ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to convene a stakeholder group to study barriers to senior employment and how to promote best practices in senior employment, to review benefit reductions for working seniors and to undertake a public education campaign to promote the value of senior citizens in the workforce.