

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 LEGAL AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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 Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 1393

An Act Regarding Lobbyist Disclosure

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill amends the definition of "expenditure" and adds the term "domestic partner" in the definition of "immediate family" in the laws governing lobbyist disclosure procedures. It repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 315, which was replaced by section 315-A. It provides the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices the authority to audit and investigate information contained in lobbyists' and employers' registrations and reports and grants the commission subpoena power to accomplish this.

LD 1393 was carried over pursuant to Joint Order, HP 1369. It will be used as a vehicle to consider proposals regarding lobbying and lobbyist disclosure made by other bills that were voted ought not to pass.

LD 1394

An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure by Political Action Committees

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill defines a political action committee as an organization whose major purpose is to influence elections and that raises or spends more than \$1,500 to influence an election. The definition also includes a separate or segregated fund established to influence elections. The bill also requires that an organization that does not have a major purpose to influence elections form an affiliated political action committee if the organization spends more than \$5,000 in any calendar year to influence an election. The bill also establishes how a political action committee affiliated with another organization must report contributions, funds transfers and donated staff time from that organization. The bill repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1056-B, which required reports from any person other than a political action committee than raised or spent more than \$1,500 to influence an election.

LD 1394 was carried over pursuant to Joint Order, HP 1369. It will be considered along with proposals made by other bills, voted ought not to pass, that address political action committees and organizations that fall under the reporting requirements of Title 21-A, section 1056-B.

LD 1397

An Act To Allow Nonprofit Organizations and Indian Tribes To Sponsor Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments

ONTP

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

This bill allows nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes to hold Texas hold 'em poker tournaments in which the licensee may keep up to 25% of the entrance fee and 75% of the fee must go to prizes for winners of the tournament. Of the remaining fee after the prizes are paid, 75% must go to the Maine State Grant Program. A licensee may hold no more than 3 tournaments a week with an entrance fee of \$50, may hold a super tournament once a month with an entrance fee of \$75 and a giant tournament twice a year with an entrance fee of \$100. The bill allows any tournament to conduct a subtournament of eliminated participants that must start within 2 hours of the original tournament. The entrance fee may not exceed 50% of the fee for the original tournament.