

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

May 2008

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR & FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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:

CON RES XXX	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	
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
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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

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.

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

Sponsor(s) Committee Report Amendments Adopted ONTP SILSBY

This resolve makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$125,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 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.

LD 1190 An Act To Promote Economic Growth through Education for Androscoggin County

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
ROTUNDO	ONTP	

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 to complete a portion of a building to address overcrowding at Lewiston-Auburn College.

LD 1268 An Act To Fund the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program and ONTP Fund

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MAKAS	ONTP	

This bill appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund each year for the next 2 years to finance the nursing education loan repayment program, which was established in Public Law 2005, chapter 417.

LD 1424 An Act Requiring Long-range Budget Planning

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WOODBURY	OTP-AM	H-993

This bill requires that the state budget document include a long-range plan for State Government and describe any imbalance between projected revenues and projected expenditures.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-993)

This amendment requires that the long-range plan included in the state budget document describe the vision of the Governor or Governor-elect for the upcoming biennium and 2 succeeding biennia, rather than for the next decade. In addition, this amendment removes the requirement that the state budget document describe any imbalance between projected revenues and projected expenditures.

Enacted Law Summary

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PUBLIC 613

ONTP

ONTP

Public Law 2007, chapter 613 requires that the long-range plan included in the state budget document describe the vision of the Governor or Governor-elect for the upcoming biennium and 2 succeeding biennia.

LD 1654 An Act To Reduce the Cost of the Unfunded Liability of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Fund and To Reduce the Cost to Maine Citizens of Purchasing State Bonds

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report
THOMAS	ONTP

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to accomplish 2 goals. Part A would reduce the cost of the unfunded actuarial liability to the state employee and teacher retirement fund by authorizing the issuance of pension cost reduction bonds by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. Part B would authorize the Treasurer of State to institute a program to make the purchase of State general obligation bonds more accessible to Maine citizens.

LD 1848 An Act To Promote Sustainable Prosperity

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EDMONDS	ONTP	

The purpose of this bill is to implement the recommendations of the report by the Brookings Institution entitled "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places."

Part A of this bill establishes the Maine Government Efficiency Commission and directs the commission to identify government expenditures that can be eliminated or reduced by consolidating governmental entities, increasing efficiency in the provision of services and eliminating duplication.

Part B of this bill establishes the Maine Government Efficiency Fund, which consists of that portion of undedicated General Fund revenues that is certified by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to be directly attributable to savings resulting from reductions in spending in state and local government recommended by the Maine Government Efficiency Commission.

Part C of this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds for competitive grants for collaborative research and development activities with the goal of stimulating the State's economic development.

Part D of this bill establishes the Maine Cluster Development Fund within the Office of Innovation in the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of providing cluster development grants to be used for competitive grants to industry-led coalitions in the targeted technology sectors and the Innovation Jobs Fund within the Office of Innovation within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Part D also transfers funds from the Government Efficiency Fund, if sufficient funds exist and in this order of priority, to the Maine Cluster Development Fund, the Innovation Jobs Fund and the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services. Part D also requires that, when sufficient funds are available in the Government Efficiency Fund to fund the changes, the State Tax Assessor shall submit legislation to reduce the highest tax rate applicable to income from 8.5% to 8.0% and to increase by 20% the threshold for applying that rate.

Part E of this bill:

Amendments Adopted

ONTP

ONTP