

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

July 2007

**STAFF:**

JULIE S. JONES, SENIOR ANALYST  
ALEXANDRA AVORE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207)287-1635

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. JOSEPH C. PERRY, CHAIR  
SEN. ETHAN STRIMLING  
SEN. RICHARD A. NASS

REP. JOHN F. PIOTTI, CHAIR  
REP. HERBERT E. CLARK  
REP. ANNE M. RAND  
REP. THOMAS R. WATSON  
REP. DONALD E. PILON  
REP. RANDY E. HOTHAM  
REP. SCOTT E. LANSLEY  
REP. KATHLEEN D. CHASE  
REP. L. GARY KNIGHT  
REP. RICHARD G. WOODBURY

# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 Taxation*

property from the ability of municipalities to levy charges on certain tax exempt property for the provision of services such as fire and police protection and water and sewer service.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-171)**

This amendment narrows the scope of the bill by deleting the provision affecting converted residential housing and clarifying the provision providing an exception to municipal service charge authority for residential property owned by a nonprofit organization and used to provide housing and services to persons with certain disabilities.

**LD 1649**     **An Act To Establish a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Tax for  
Homestead Tax Relief**

**ONTP**

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

This bill does the following:

Part A allows a municipality, by referendum, to establish a local option real estate transfer tax of up to 2% on the transfer of single family homes. The revenue must be used to fund:

1. A local option circuitbreaker program;
2. A local option homestead property tax exemption program; or
3. The portion of the state homestead property tax exemption program that is not funded by the State; currently 50% of the property tax revenues lost as a result of the State homestead property tax exemption are not funded by the State.

Part B allows a municipality to adopt a local option homestead property tax exemption program.

**LD 1652**     **An Act To Support County Corrections and Public Education**

**ONTP**

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

Part A affects the imposition of sales tax by expanding the definition of "taxable service" for purposes of the imposition of sales tax to include amusement, recreational and personal services and consumer purchases of transportation services and professional, club or fraternal memberships and repeals certain sales tax exemptions.

Part B dedicates the revenue generated by Part A to reduce property taxes by providing funding for education, county corrections and regional capital improvement.