

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 1611 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development to Create Jobs in Maine's Emerging Biobased Plastics Industry

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SMITH N | ONTP | |

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$30,000,000, are to fund research, development and commercialization of the emerging biobased plastics industry in Maine. The Maine Technology Institute will administer competitive awards through a biobased plastics and green chemistry fund for collaborative projects that include, but are not limited to, research and development of processes to manufacture biobased plastics from agricultural and forest products and the commercialization of biobased plastics production from potatoes and agricultural crops in Aroostook County.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 enacted a similar bond proposal.

LD 1628 An Act To Fund the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund To Ensure That Help from the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Is Received in a Timely Fashion

ONTP

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

This bill appropriates one-time funds for the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and capitalize the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4992-A. The authority shall use the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund to ensure that fuel assistance benefits for the State's eligible elderly and low-income residents are available in a timely fashion.

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

CARRIED OVER

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

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.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369. The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs requested the Joint Select Committee on Prosperity consider this bill in the conduct of their deliberations.