

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 2008

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
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**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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

LD 1674 An Act To Amend the Habitual Offender and Felony Operating Under the Influence Laws

DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND	OTP-AM	S-399

The bill makes several changes in the laws applying to persons driving with suspended or revoked licenses or persons charged with the most serious driving offenses, such as felony operating under the influence (OUI) and manslaughter.

1. It provides that a driver charged with operating after suspension (OAS) will not be authorized to plead guilty to the court clerk without a formal court appearance, and must appear before a judge for sentencing. The judge will then impose a sentence based upon the driver's record and the circumstances of the offense.
2. It amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 2411, subsection 1-A, paragraph D in response to a recent court decision. In *State v. Dwayne B. Stevens*, 2007 ME 5, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court determined that Title 29-A, section 2411, subsection 1-A, paragraph D has a 10-year limitation on the use of prior convictions for manslaughter and Class B or C operating under the influence. To address that determination, this bill specifies that Title 17-A, section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence, except that, for the purposes of the offenses in Title 29-A, section 2411, subsection 1-A, paragraph D, the date of each prior conviction may precede the commission of the offense being enhanced by more than 10 years. The section also incorporates a reference to the new Class B OUI offense enacted in 2006.
3. It increases the sentencing class in OAS for drivers whose licenses have been suspended as a result of convictions in which a death resulted: Class A manslaughter, Class B OUI and Class B OAS. Under current law the OAS offense is only a Class E crime.
4. It clarifies that a court looks back 10 years in determining whether to impose the mandatory fines applying to ordinary OAS cases.
5. It gives courts authority to revoke the driver's license as part of the sentence for an adult or juvenile manslaughter defendant. Under current law only the Secretary of State may revoke a driver's license upon a manslaughter conviction. The court will be authorized to revoke a license for at least a 5-year period, but must also notify the Secretary of State, who may revoke the license for a longer period under Title 29-A, section 2454, subsection 2.
6. It clarifies a provision that was added by Public Law 2005, chapter 606. The current language in Title 29-A, section 2557-A, subsection 1, paragraph B would subject a driver to prosecution for a Class C habitual offender offense even if the driver's previous record did not include such a conviction and the person's license is currently suspended instead of revoked as a habitual offender. The intent of the Public Law 2005, chapter 606 change was to specify that once a person is a felon, meaning the most serious habitual offender under the driving laws, the person continues to be a significant offender under those laws even when the person's license is suspended rather than revoked. The language in the bill makes this clear.
7. It rewrites the sentencing provisions of the habitual offender statute to make them consistent with the format in the aggravated operating after habitual offender revocation law added by Public Law 2005, chapter 606, while adding references to former Title 29-A, section 2557 that were inadvertently omitted from chapter 606.
8. It amends Title 29-A, sections 2557-A and 2558 to make the treatment of multiple offenses consistent with other prior conviction language. The bill adds language to each section to specify that when more than one offense or

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

violation arises from the same incident, the offense or violations are treated as one offense.

9. It adds a reference to Title 29-A, section 2411 in 2 portions of the aggravated habitual offender laws enacted in Public Law 2005, chapter 606. A reference to prior OUI conviction was included in one sentencing provision of chapter 606 but inadvertently omitted from other provisions.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-83)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill to ensure that omissions in changes to the operating after suspension and habitual offender laws enacted pursuant to Public Law 2005, chapter 606 are immediately corrected. The amendment also clarifies that the Secretary of State's authority to impose license revocation is not changed. If the court fails to revoke a license for criminal homicide or attempted criminal homicide, the Secretary of State shall impose a 5-year revocation, unless a longer revocation is imposed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 2454, subsection 2.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-399)

This amendment is the same as Committee Amendment "A" (S-83). Committee Amendment "B" was never removed from the Special Appropriations Table and died on adjournment.

LD 1873 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Stalking

PUBLIC 685

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS	OTP-AM	S-400 S-672 ROTUNDO

The bill amends the stalking laws by expanding the prohibited conduct and providing for additional aggravating factors that elevate an offense to a Class C crime. Current law specifies that a person is guilty of stalking if the person intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at another specific person that would in fact cause both a reasonable person and that other specific person to suffer intimidation or serious inconvenience, annoyance or alarm; to fear bodily injury or to fear bodily injury to a member of that person's immediate family; or to fear death or to fear the death of a member of that person's immediate family. The bill expands the course of conduct to include that conduct directed at or concerning a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to suffer serious inconvenience or emotional distress; to fear bodily injury or to fear bodily injury to a close relation; to fear death or to fear the death of a close relation; to fear damage or destruction to or tampering with property; or to fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in the possession and control of that specific person. These instances of conduct would remain Class D crimes, and the provision requiring a mandatory sentence of imprisonment in the current law is repealed.

Current law also makes the crime of stalking a Class C offense if the person violates any of the current versions of stalking in 17-A, section 210-A, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1)-(3) (described above) and has 2 or more prior convictions for stalking. The bill expands the aggravated course of conduct for Class C stalking to include a person who violates paragraph A, which includes subparagraphs (1)-(3) as amended and new subparagraphs (4) and (5) and, at the time of the offense: violates a condition of a court order in this State or any other jurisdiction in effect at the time of the crime that prohibits the actor from having contact with the person being stalked; has one or more prior convictions under this section or one or more prior convictions for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in any other jurisdiction; has one or more prior convictions in this State or in any other jurisdiction for a crime involving threats of violence or violence against the person being stalked; or has 2 or more prior convictions for any combination of offenses under the following: Title 5, section 4659; Title 15, section 321; former Title 19, section 769; Title 19-A, section 4011; Title 22, section 4036; any other temporary, emergency, interim or final protective order issued by any other jurisdiction; or a court-approved consent agreement. The bill also repeals the mandatory sentences in current law for Class C stalking