

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 1723 An Act To Streamline the Beano Laws

ONTP

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

This bill amends current law to allow different organizations to conduct beano games at the same location on the same day. Current law provides that no more than one game may be conducted at any one place on a given day. It also extends the time at the beginning of beano games when games of chance may be sold from one hour to 2 hours. This bill increases the prize limit on individual games from \$400 to \$500.

Current rules prohibit beano workers from assisting players by playing their cards except the law provides for an exception for restroom breaks. This bill allows beano workers to assist players by marking their beano cards when the players have to leave their seats for a smoke or refreshment break.

Finally, this bill directs the Chief of the State Police to make certain changes to the rules pertaining to the conduct of beano games, including permitting the licensee to reserve seats at a beano game for parties of 10 or more, allowing additional cards to be distributed during the middle of a game, charging for beano cards based on the retail value of individual games and to charge a fee for the use or exchange of electronic beano daubers. Current rule prohibits changing or purchasing new cards once beano play has commenced.

LD 1724 An Act To Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act

ONTP

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

This bill amends the Maine Clean Election Act by increasing the number of qualifying contributions required of a gubernatorial candidate for certification from 2,500 to 3,250 and requiring that candidate to raise at least \$15,000 in seed money. The bill amends the definition of a qualifying contribution to state that the \$5 donation may be made to only one candidate seeking the gubernatorial election or one candidate in a particular legislative election. It extends the authority to certify candidates as Maine Clean Election Act candidates to the executive director of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. This bill adds to the requirements for certification and provides for circumstances under which the commission or its executive director may revoke certification of a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and require the return of Maine Clean Election Act funds. Finally, this bill removes language designating rules adopted under the Maine Clean Election Act as major substantive rules.

The proposals in this bill were considered with a large comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.

LD 1729 An Act To Allow Contributors to Candidates Financed by the Maine Clean Election Fund To Submit Qualifying Contributions Online

ONTP

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

This bill allows a qualifying contribution under the Maine Clean Election Act to be paid by a credit card over the Internet. The proposal in this bill was considered with a large comprehensive bill addressing campaign finance and the Maine Clean Election Act, LD 1854.