

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 1779 An Act To Govern Publicly Funded Advertising during Campaigns

DIED BETWEEN HOUSES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

This bill prohibits any candidate for public office from appearing in any television, radio or newspaper advertisement that is paid for by public funds, other than with disbursements from the Maine Clean Election Fund, during the 6 months preceding a primary or general election in which he or she is a candidate.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-246)

This amendment, which was not adopted, replaces the bill. The amendment prohibits a candidate from appearing in radio, television or newspaper advertisements broadcast or published from the time that candidate becomes a candidate up to the election that are paid for, in any amount, by a direct appropriation of state funds. This prohibition does not apply to campaign advertisements paid for by disbursements from the Maine Clean Election Fund.

LD 1783 An Act To Require Photographic Identification in Order To Register To Vote

ONTP

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

This bill requires a person, in order to prove residence to a registrar when registering to vote, to show an unexpired or otherwise valid driver's license, a state identification card showing a photograph issued by any state or District of Columbia, a United States Passport or a United States military ID.

LD 1799 An Act To Establish Open Ballot Voting in Maine

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill authorizes cross-endorsement, which is the practice of multiple parties or political designations nominating the same candidate. It eliminates the current rules requiring enrollment in a political party in order to be a candidate for that party's nomination. It also requires the Secretary of State to list on the ballot a candidate nominated by multiple parties or political designations once for each party or political designation. The bill also prevents over votes, which is when a voter marks the same candidate's name multiple times, from invalidating the vote.

This bill also authorizes the formation of official minor political parties and establishes the requirement for formation, continuation and ballot access.

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.