

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 1677 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Riverfront Community Development

ONTP

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used to fund a grant program to invest in projects that contribute to economic, environmental and community development and revitalization along the State's rivers, promote economic activity, protect the environment and enhance the quality of life for Maine people.

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

LD 1692 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Improvements to Passenger Rail Service

ONTP

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

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$40,000,000, will be used to make improvements to passenger rail service in Maine.

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

LD 1796 An Act To Authorize Bond Issues for Ratification by the Voters for the June and November 2007 Elections and the June 2008 Election and To Transfer Certain Funds

**PUBLIC 39
EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EDMONDS | OTP-AM | S-26 |

LD 1796 was the Governor's proposed bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, airports, public transit facilities, ferry and port facilities including port and harbor structures and statewide bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-26)

Committee Amendment "A" (S-26) was the unanimous report of the Committee in response to various general obligation bond proposals.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 does the following:

Part A authorizes a \$112,975,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, airports, public transit facilities, ferry and port facilities including port and harbor structures and bicycle and pedestrian trails. Part A requires a June 2007 referendum.

Part B authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$18,300,000 for grants and low-interest loans to support construction of wastewater treatment facilities and to support improvements to Maine's public water systems. Part B requires a June 2007 referendum.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Part C authorizes a \$43,500,000 bond issue to make interior and exterior building renovations, improvements and additions at all campuses of the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Maine System; provides funds for the School Revolving Renovation Fund; and provides funds for the New Century Community Program. Part C requires a November 2007 referendum.

Part D authorizes a bond issue for \$50,000,000 in research and development funds and \$5,000,000 in loan and grant funds for economic development. Part D requires a November 2007 referendum.

Part E authorizes a \$35,500,000 bond issue to be matched by at least \$21,875,000 in private and public contributions. The proceeds must be used to recapitalize the Land for Maine's Future program, of which \$3,000,000 will support the working waterfront program; to fund the agricultural water source development grant program; to fund capital improvements at state parks and historic sites; to invest in river-based community development pursuant to a competitive process under the program authorized in Part F; and to fund the Municipal Investment Trust Fund. Part E requires a November 2007 referendum.

Part F establishes the Riverfront Community Development Program, which is contingent on voter approval of the bonds proposed in Part E.

Part G authorizes a \$29,725,000 bond issue for natural resource and environmental quality investments, fish hatcheries, dam safety, pollution control and monitoring measures to protect water quality and public health, and for improvements to highways and bridges, airports, public transit facilities, ferry and port facilities and statewide bicycle and pedestrian trails. This Part requires a June 2008 referendum.

Part H authorizes the State Budget Officer to transfer by financial order in fiscal year 2006-07 any unexpended balance of Personal Services to All Other in the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations for expenses associated with the special election to be held in June 2007.

Public Law 2007, chapter 39 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 2007.

LD 1848 An Act To Promote Sustainable Prosperity

CARRIED OVER

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

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.

The purpose of this bill is to implement the recommendations of the report by the Brookings Institution entitled "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places."

Part A of this bill establishes the Maine Government Efficiency Commission and directs the commission to identify government expenditures that can be eliminated or reduced by consolidating governmental entities, increasing