

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine  
Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR & FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

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<sup>1</sup> The session in which each law was enacted or finally passed (R2 or S1) is included in Appendix C.

*Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs*

**LD 1799 An Act To Establish Open Ballot Voting in Maine**

**DIED IN  
CONCURRENCE**

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

This bill, which was carried over from the First Regular Session, establishes a definition of minor party and establishes a system where minor parties may nominate, by convention, candidates from “major” parties as their own candidate for general election. Under this bill, a minor party is formed if a designated candidate received votes in the last election equal to or greater than 2 ½% of the total votes cast for governor in either of the two preceding general elections or if the proposed minor party obtains signatures on a petition to establish the party equal to or greater than 2 ½% of the total votes cast for governor at the last election. Once established as a minor party, a candidate is selected by the party at convention. For major party candidates to be nominated by a minor party, a nominating petition for that candidate must list the minor party. Once nominated, that candidate is listed on the ballot next to the name of each party for which that candidate received a nomination.

**LD 1879 An Act To Allow Additional Slot Machines at a Harness Horse Racing Track To Support Harness Horse Racing, Passenger and Freight Train Service on the Mountain Division Rail Line and Passenger Train Service Overseen by the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOORE G SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill, which was carried over from the First Regular session, permits the operation of slot machines at a harness horse racing track in a municipality along the railroad line from Portland to the New Hampshire border overseen by the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority or the railroad line from Portland through Westbrook, Gorham, Standish and Fryeburg to the New Hampshire border known as the Mountain Division rail line. The bill limits the location of the operation of these slot machines to one harness horse racing track and to within 200 feet of the outside edge of the racing oval at that harness horse racing track. A municipality must approve the operation of slot machines before slot machines authorized by this bill may be operated in that municipality. The bill is subject to approval by the voters of this State at referendum.

The slot machine operator will be required to collect and distribute 1% of gross slot machine income for deposit in the General Fund. The slot machine operator will be required to collect and distribute 39% of the net slot machine income as follows:

1. Two percent for deposit in the General Fund for administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board, including gambling addiction counseling services;
2. Ten percent to supplement harness racing purses;
3. Three percent for deposit in the Sire Stakes Fund;
4. Three percent for deposit in the Agricultural Fair Support Fund;
5. Five percent for the Town of Standish to establish a drinking water protection fund to protect the quality of the drinking water for communities served by the Portland Water District and to establish a recreational area on Sebago