

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
123<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>RD</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> 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*

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

# *Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

efficiency in the provision of services and eliminating duplication.

Part B of this bill establishes the Maine Government Efficiency Fund, which consists of that portion of undedicated General Fund revenues that is certified by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to be directly attributable to savings resulting from reductions in spending in state and local government recommended by the Maine Government Efficiency Commission.

Part C of this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds for competitive grants for collaborative research and development activities with the goal of stimulating the State's economic development.

Part D of this bill establishes the Maine Cluster Development Fund within the Office of Innovation in the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of providing cluster development grants to be used for competitive grants to industry-led coalitions in the targeted technology sectors and the Innovation Jobs Fund within the Office of Innovation within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Part D also transfers funds from the Government Efficiency Fund, if sufficient funds exist and in this order of priority, to the Maine Cluster Development Fund, the Innovation Jobs Fund and the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services. Part D also requires that, when sufficient funds are available in the Government Efficiency Fund to fund the changes, the State Tax Assessor shall submit legislation to reduce the highest tax rate applicable to income from 8.5% to 8.0% and to increase by 20% the threshold for applying that rate.

Part E of this bill:

1. Establishes the Maine Community Enhancement Fund for the purposes of providing resources to towns and municipalities for community planning and facilitating and implementing comprehensive plans;
2. Authorizes, until December 31, 2012, a surcharge of \$20 per transaction for all documents that are recorded in the registry of deeds and transfers revenue from this surcharge for deposit into the Maine Community Enhancement Fund;
3. Directs the Executive Department, State Planning Office to establish a pilot project for a regional planning initiative involving multiple political subdivisions of the State;
4. Allocates funds from the Maine Community Enhancement Fund to the Maine Downtown Center, to the State Planning Office for assisting municipalities in implementing any applicable statewide building code, and to the State Planning Office for a pilot project for a regional planning initiative involving multiple political subdivisions of the State.

Part F of this bill directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to implement a program to reimburse service center communities for property taxes lost by reason of the nontaxable status of property of regional significance located within that community.

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.

**LD 1852     An Act To Provide Taxpayer Relief**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)  
LANSLEY

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted