

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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* Representative Stacey Fitts replaced former Representative Abigail Holman on the Legal and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

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

7. Extends the period of time the commission has to certify gubernatorial candidates and allows the commission to take additional time to certify a candidate if a compliance investigation is necessary;
8. Creates a process for the commission to revoke certification;
9. Increases the amount of the initial distribution to a gubernatorial candidate in the general election to \$600,000 and limits the amount of matching to an equivalent amount;
10. Requires the commission staff to audit all gubernatorial candidates who receive Maine Clean Election Act funds and requires gubernatorial candidates and campaign staff to meet with the commission staff in order to discuss spending and record-keeping requirements within one month of the candidate's declaring an intention to seek public financing under the Maine Clean Election Act;
11. Clarifies the matching funds provision to include all contributions and fund distributions in calculating matching funds;
12. Clarifies the amount and timing of distributions to unenrolled candidates; and
13. Updates the provisions regarding appeals from the commission's decisions regarding certification.

LD 1857 An Act To Allow Members of the Maine National Guard To Run for Office in a Partisan Public Election

PUBLIC 130

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

This bill exempts members of the Maine National Guard from the law prohibiting an unclassified employee of the executive branch from being a candidate for elective office in a partisan public election.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 130 exempts members of the Maine National Guard from the law prohibiting an unclassified employee of the executive branch from being a candidate for elective office in a partisan public election.

LD 1871 Resolve, Authorizing Municipalities To Consolidate Voting Districts for a Special Election

**RESOLVE 12
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT PERRY J	OTP	

This resolve authorizes municipalities to consolidate voting districts for the purpose of holding a special election on bond issues in June of 2007.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 12 authorizes municipalities to consolidate voting districts for the purpose of holding a special election on bond issues in June of 2007.

Chapter 12 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 3, 2007.