

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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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STAFF:

NATALIE L. HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

4. Clarifying the authority of licensing programs to protect the public through license denial or revocation;
5. Clarifying terms of service for board members;
6. Streamlining provisions related to board meetings and board governance;
7. Removing the requirements for unnecessary reporting by boards and commissions;
8. Clarifying the gubernatorial appointment process;
9. Clarifying penalties for noncompliance with the licensing laws;
10. Making licensees responsible for meeting statutory application deadlines; and
11. Clarifying the examination process for many professions and occupations.

LD 1863 An Act To Allow Pressure Boiler Inspections by National Board-certified Inspectors

ONTP

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

This bill amends the laws dealing with the Board of Boilers and Pressure Vessels. It changes the term "authorized inspector" to "commissioned inspector" to reflect the terms used by the National Board of Boilers and Pressure Vessel Inspectors. It defines "authorized inspection agency." It allows owners and operators of boilers and pressure vessels to contract for inspections independently for a fee with any authorized inspection agency.

LD 1872 An Act To Preserve Maine's Quality Places

ONTP

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

Part A of this bill directs the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to issue revenue bonds in the amount of \$190,000,000 to preserve and protect the State's quality places, including revitalizing towns and cities, augmenting land and farm conservation, protecting traditional uses and access to Maine forests, farms and lakes and promoting outdoor recreation and high-value tourism. The effect of Part A is contingent on voter approval of the issuance of the revenue bonds.

Part B of this bill establishes the Communities for Maine's Future program in the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide grants and loans from the sale of any bonds authorized pursuant to Part A to municipalities and groups of municipalities for community infrastructure projects.

Part C of this bill establishes the Public Access for Traditional Uses Fund within the Land for Maine's Future program.

Part D imposes an additional tax of 3% on the value of lodging and directs that the revenue from this additional tax be deposited in the Quality Places Reserve Fund.

Part E establishes the Quality Places Reserve Fund and specifies that an amount equal to 95% of the revenue in

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

the fund be applied solely to the payment of interest and principal on the revenue bonds issued pursuant to Part A. An amount equal to 5% must be transferred to the Office of Tourism.

Part F allocates \$5,000,000 from the Quality Places Reserve Fund to the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism to promote outdoor recreation and high-value tourism through branding and marketing.

Part G specifies that Parts B, C, D, E and F are contingent on voter approval of the issuance of the revenue bonds contained in Part A.

LD 1896 An Act To Promote Safety and Career Paths in the Electrical Trade

ONTP

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

The bill encourages individuals seeking to enter the electrical installation field to enroll in a state-registered apprenticeship program or a community college program of electrical study. On or after January 1, 2008, applicants for a helper license are required to demonstrate progress toward completion of a formal course of study in order to renew the license after the first renewal cycle. The bill does not affect current licensees of the board who are validly licensed as helpers before January 1, 2008.

LD 1926 An Act To Expand the Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits to Small and Midsize Maine Manufacturers

PUBLIC 468

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

Under this bill, Pine Tree Development Zone benefits are made available to more small and midsize Maine manufacturing companies by lowering the new net employee minimum to 4 and the investment minimum to \$225,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 468 amends the recently enacted statutory exceptions to the Pine Tree Development Zone law (see Public Law 2007, chapter 240), which allows the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development to certify a business that does not otherwise qualify as a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business pursuant to Title 30-A MRSA section 5250-I, subsection 17 or that does not locate in a Pine Tree Development Zone as qualified to receive Pine Tree Development Zone benefits if the business does the following: (A) is a for-profit business that has been engaged in the business of manufacturing in the State for at least 3 years; (B) makes a written commitment to expand its business at one of its current locations in the State by adding at the location of expansion a minimum of 20 net new, full-time employees for whom a retirement program subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 United States Code, Sections 1001 to 1461, as amended, and group health coverage are provided and whose income derived from employment at the business's location of expansion, calculated on a calendar-year basis, is greater than the most recent annual per capita personal income in the county in which the employee is employed; and (C) makes a written commitment to invest a minimum of \$2,000,000 in its expansion at one of its current locations.

Public Law 2007, chapter 468 amends the statutory exceptions to the Pine Tree Development Zone law by lowering the number of net, new full-time employees from 20 to 4 and reducing the minimum expansion investment level from \$2 million to \$225,000 in order to provide Pine Tree Development Zone benefits to small and midsize Maine manufacturing businesses.