

# 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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

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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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

dedicated to the Community Corrections Fund and to the County Jail Prisoner Support Fund. The department shall distribute amounts to each county based on each county's percentage of statewide jail inmate days, which must be calculated for the last fiscal year for which data is available. If a county's percentage results in a lower subsidy than it received pursuant to the former Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-A, section 1210-A, that county may not receive a reduction. If the county's percentage results in a subsidy higher than it received pursuant to former Title 34-A, section 1210-A, that county would receive an increase in funding in proportion to available funding to move the entire county jail system toward greater equity.

Public Law 2007, chapter 377 also creates a new nonlapsing fund, the Community Corrections Incentive Fund, and the State Sentencing and Corrections Practices Coordinating Council shall approve applications and award and administer to counties competitive grants from this fund. Grants must be used for initiatives to expand community corrections, regional programs and other efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the correctional system. Awards would be made in areas such as pretrial diversion, pretrial release, transition, specialty jails, regional cooperation and deferred disposition programs. Grants must also be awarded based on considerations of improved efficiency, offender and court docket reduction, consolidation of resources, reduced recidivism and improved methods for the delivery of services. No money was appropriated to the fund at this time.

Public Law 2007, chapter 377 also includes in the factors that a judicial officer must consider before allowing pretrial release of a defendant on personal recognizance or an unsecured appearance bond the determination that the defendant's release will not compromise the safety of the community. See Public Law 2007, chapter 374, which incorporates this idea completely within the Maine Bail Code.

### **LD 1897**      **An Act To Allow Blended Sentencing for Certain Juveniles**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)

DIAMOND

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

S-277

In terms of incarceration as a sentencing alternative for juveniles, the Juvenile Code currently authorizes a juvenile to be adjudicated and committed to Long creek Youth Development Center or Mountain View Youth Development Center until the juvenile is 18-21 years of age. The Juvenile Code also authorizes a juvenile to be committed to an adult correctional facility if the juvenile is bound over and tried and convicted as an adult. Currently, a juvenile may not be sentenced to alternatives of incarceration involving both the juvenile system and the adult system for the same offense. With respect to the finding of appropriateness of whether a juvenile should be bound over and tried as an adult, the State has the burden of proof in all cases, except those involving a juvenile who is charged with one or more juvenile crimes that, if the juvenile were an adult, would constitute murder, attempted murder, felony murder, Class A manslaughter other than the reckless or criminally negligent operation of a motor vehicle, elevated aggravated assault, arson that recklessly endangers any person, causing a catastrophe, Class A robbery or Class A gross sexual assault in which the victim submits as a result of compulsion.

This bill requires blended sentencing for a juvenile bound over and convicted as an adult and sentenced to imprisonment if the juvenile has not attained 16 years of age at the time of sentencing and if the offense for which the juvenile was convicted is listed in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 3101, subsection 4, paragraph C-2 as one for which the juvenile had the burden of proving a bind over was not appropriate. Blended sentencing affects only the place where imprisonment is served and means that the term of imprisonment, or, in the case of a split sentence, the unsuspended portion, imposed by the court must first be served in a Department of Corrections juvenile facility until the juvenile reaches 18 years of age or is sooner discharged from the facility and any imprisonment time remaining must then be served in a Department of Corrections adult facility.

LD 1897 was carried over by joint order, H.P. 1369 after being removed from the Special Appropriations Table and recommitted to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

# *Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

## **Committee Amendment "A" (S-277)**

This amendment makes changes to account for recently enacted law.

### **LD 1902 An Act Requiring the State Bureau of Identification To Report Persons Found To Be a Danger to Themselves or to Others to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAIRCLOTH NUTTING J		H-480

This bill establishes a procedure to prevent a person who has been found to be a danger to self or others from possessing a firearm.

This bill requires a court that commits a person involuntarily to a state mental health facility or a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist who determines a person to be a danger to self or others to report this commitment or determination to the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification. The bureau is required to forward the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which operates the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

This bill requires a person purchasing a firearm from a firearms dealer to complete an application. The dealer is required to submit the application to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a background check. Maine law currently only requires a federally licensed firearm dealer to provide a basic firearm safety brochure and other information to the purchaser of a firearm.

A person who has been involuntarily committed to a state mental health facility or determined to be a danger to self or others may obtain a firearm only upon application to the Commissioner of Public Safety and must include with the application a certified court order or notarized statement of a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist that the person is no longer a danger to self or others.

## **Committee Amendment "A" (H-480)**

This amendment replaces the bill and proposes a procedure to prevent possession of a firearm by a person who has been committed involuntarily to a psychiatric hospital after a commitment hearing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 3864, subsection 7 because the person was found to present a threat of substantial risk of physical harm to self, was found to present a threat of substantial risk of physical harm to others, was found not criminally responsible by reason of insanity with respect to a criminal charge or was found not competent to stand trial with respect to a criminal charge.

The amendment requires the court to report information about a person adjudicated as being a danger to self or to others to the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification, which is then required to pass the fact of disqualification on to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for use in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The amendment also authorizes a person who has been previously prohibited from possessing a firearm under these new prohibitions to apply to the Commissioner of Public Safety for the restoration of the right to possess a black powder rifle or any other firearm that does not fall within the definition of "firearm" under 18 United States Code, Section 921(3).

LD 1902 was carried over by joint order, H.P. 1369 after being recommitted to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.