

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE
123RD 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 123rd Maine
Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 2008

STAFF:

MARION HYLAN BARR, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. BILL DIAMOND, CHAIR
SEN. EARLE L. MCCORMICK
SEN. ROGER L. SHERMAN

REP. STAN GERZOFSKY, CHAIR
REP. PATRICIA A. BLANCHETTE
REP. ANNE M. HASKELL
REP. STEPHEN P. HANLEY
REP. DAWN HILL
REP. BRYAN T. KAENRATH
REP. RICHARD M. SYKES
REP. CHRISTIAN D. GREELEY
REP. GARY E. PLUMMER
REP. JOSEPH L. TIBBETTS

STATE OF MAINE
123RD 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 123rd 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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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, 2008.¹ 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 123rd Legislature.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senate Amendment "A" (S-672)

This amendment strikes from the bill provisions that expanded the prohibited conduct that could be used as aggravating factors to elevate a stalking offense from a Class D crime to a Class C crime. Specifically, the amendment states that a person is guilty of Class C stalking if that person violates the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 210-A, subsection 1, paragraph A and has 2 or more prior convictions in this State or in another jurisdiction. The amendment also adds convictions for a violation of Title 22, section 4036 to the definition of "prior conviction." The amendment also strikes the appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 685 amends the stalking laws by expanding the course of conduct that defines stalking to include that conduct directed at or concerning a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to suffer serious inconvenience or emotional distress; to fear bodily injury or to fear bodily injury to a close relation; to fear death or to fear the death of a close relation; to fear damage or destruction to or tampering with property; or to fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in the possession and control of that specific person. These instances of conduct remain Class D crimes, and the provision requiring a mandatory sentence of imprisonment for these crimes is repealed. Public Law 2007, chapter 685 also expands the stalking laws by specifying that a person is guilty of Class C stalking if that person violates the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 210-A, subsection 1, paragraph A and has 2 or more prior convictions in this State or in another jurisdiction. Public Law 2007, chapter 685 also repeals the provision requiring a mandatory sentence of imprisonment for Class C stalking crimes and adds convictions for a violation of Title 22, section 4036 to the definition of "prior conviction" for purposes of defining Class C stalking.

LD 1897 An Act To Allow Blended Sentencing for Certain Juveniles

PUBLIC 686

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DIAMOND	OTP-AM	S-415

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-277)

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

This amendment makes technical changes to account for recently enacted law.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-415)

This amendment is the same as Committee Amendment "A" (S-277).

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 686 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 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

PUBLIC 670

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAIRCLOTH NUTTING J	OTP-AM	H-1007 GERZOFSKY H-941

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

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 federally licensed 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.

The bill provides a process for restoration of the right to possess a firearm (black powder rifle). 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 black powder rifle 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.