

# 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 LEGAL AND  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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**STAFF:**

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

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

# 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 Legal and Veterans Affairs

Guard will also track the care of wounded service members of all military services. It also makes a technical change by adding the commission to the list of boards and commissions found in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 and by referencing the role of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Title 22, which governs health and welfare. This amendment includes a purpose section and clarifies a headnote.

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 318 creates the Commission to Protect the Lives and Health of Members of the Maine National Guard. The commission consists of 9 voting members and one or 2 advisory nonvoting members. The intent of the bill is to provide through the commission a higher and safer standard for preventive medical practices and health screenings administered to members of the Maine National Guard than currently exists.

The commission, working with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, is required to review all preventive health care treatment practices and protocols and vaccinations and other medications administered to members of the Maine National Guard and propose recommendations to the Armed Forces of the United States regarding safer health care practices and medications. The commission shall also assist veterans' families who have members who have died while in the Maine National Guard to obtain accurate and timely information regarding the deaths. The commission shall track the care of wounded Maine National Guard members and Armed Forces service members and help ensure good care.

The commission must hold at least 4 meetings a year, including one public hearing, to obtain information, including information provided by veterans and their families in regard to the issues that the commission is required to address.

Commission members include, among others, a physician, a psychologist, a pharmacist, a retired veteran who has served in a war zone, a family member of a deceased military person who died while serving in the Maine National Guard and a disabled veteran who suffered a disability while serving in a military capacity.

The commission must issue its first complete report by December 15, 2008 and an annual report thereafter.

Public Law 2007, chapter 318 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 18, 2007.

### LD 1898 An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to Lobbying

ONTP

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

This bill amends the definition of "lobbying" to include the solicitation of others to influence legislative action and defines "solicitation." The bill also requires a lobbyist to include in the lobbyist's monthly report to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices the specific dollar amount of expenditures for solicitation.

The proposal in this bill is to be considered with LD 1393 which was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

### LD 1921 An Act Regarding the Central Voter Registration System

PUBLIC 397  
EMERGENCY

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

## *Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs*

This bill is a Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs bill pursuant to joint order. It amends the laws governing the central voter registration system by consolidating 2 reports due annually in March to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration. It amends the fee system for the purchase of electronic records from the central voter registration system by reducing the cost and establishing new fees more in line with what other states charge for such records. Finally, in recognition of the delayed implementation of the central voter registration system, the bill extends the date of a sunset provision and allows for limited exceptions to the public records law by allowing some electronic data to be confidential.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 397 amends the laws governing the central voter registration system by consolidating 2 reports due annually in March to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration. It amends the fee system for the purchase of electronic records from the central voter registration system by reducing the cost and establishing new fees more in line with what other states charge for such records. Finally, in recognition of the delayed implementation of the central voter registration system, chapter 397 extends the date of a sunset provision and allows for limited exceptions to the public records law by allowing some electronic data to be confidential.

This bill was enacted as an emergency measure, effective June 21, 2007.

**LD 1924      An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Committee To      CARRIED OVER**  
**Review the Taxation of Slot Machine Revenues, Created by Executive**  
**Order 33 Fiscal Year 2006-07**

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to implement the recommendations of the Committee to Review the Taxation of Slot Machine Revenues, created by Executive Order 33 Fiscal Year 2006-07.

LD 1924 was carried over pursuant to Joint Order, HP 1369.

**LD 1928      An Act To Extend from 4 to 6 Terms the Limits on Legislative Terms      PUBLIC 465**

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

This bill extends the limitation on legislative terms from 4 to 6. It would not apply to members of the Legislature who are currently serving a 4th consecutive term as a Senator or as a member of the House of Representatives. This bill requires that the proposed alteration in the law governing term limits be submitted to the voters in November 2007 for approval.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 465 submits to the voters in November 2007, a proposal to extend legislative terms from 4 to 6. This measure would not apply to members of the Legislature who are currently serving a 4th consecutive term as a Senator or as a member of the House of Representatives.