

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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 HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES**

May 2008

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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 Health and Human Services

LD 2106 An Act To Enhance the Newborn Hearing Program

PUBLIC 508

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

This bill gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to participate in a national or regional database or both for tracking information about newborns and children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing so as to plan more effectively for developmentally appropriate services to further the goals of the Newborn Hearing Program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2008, chapter 508 gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to participate in a national or regional database or both for tracking information about newborns and children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing so as to plan more effectively for developmentally appropriate services to further the goals of the Newborn Hearing Program.

LD 2107 An Act To Establish a Forensic Case Review Panel To Advise the Department of Health and Human Services

ONTP

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

This bill establishes a forensic case review panel whose members are appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the panel is to study certain cases in which a current or former consumer of mental health services in this State caused serious injury or death to another while in this State and to report to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Legislature on factors contributing to the deaths and injuries reviewed and the strengths and weaknesses of the current mental health care delivery system and include recommendations to decrease the rate of death and serious injury directly caused by current or former consumers of mental health services in this State.

LD 2108 Resolve, To Adopt Respectful Language in Programs Affecting Developmental Services

RESOLVE 172

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

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to change the name of its programs for persons with mental retardation or autism to "developmental services programs" and to be guided by the working group convened by the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council pursuant to Resolve 2007, chapter 62 in making any changes to rules and other publications to reflect the change in terminology.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 172 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to change the name of its programs for persons with mental retardation or autism to "developmental services programs" and to be guided by the working group convened by the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council pursuant to Resolve 2007, chapter 62 in making any changes to rules and other publications to reflect the change in terminology.