

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 STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

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 State and Local Government

LD 2282

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services on Behalf of the State To Convey Title and Other Interests in the Stone Buildings Formerly Occupied by the Augusta Mental Health Institute

RESOLVE 181

Sponsor(s)

BARSTOW

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2282 authorizes the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into long-term ground leases of the following sites and to convey the following buildings, subject to surrender to the State upon termination of the ground leases: the Stone Buildings, the Administration Building and the Center Building, collectively known as the Stone Buildings and formerly occupied by the Augusta Mental Health Institute. The action authorized in this resolve was part of the initiative to streamline State Government established in Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part QQQ. The content of this resolve was included in the supplemental budget, LD 2173, but was removed from the budget because the Constitution of Maine prohibits the inclusion in an emergency bill of a provision for the sale or renting for more than 5 years of real estate.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 181 authorizes the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into long-term ground leases of the following sites and to convey the following buildings, subject to surrender to the State upon termination of the ground leases: the Stone Buildings, the Administration Building and the Center Building, collectively known as the Stone Buildings and formerly occupied by the Augusta Mental Health Institute. The action authorized in this resolve was part of the initiative to streamline State Government established in Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part QQQ. The content of this resolve was included in the supplemental budget, LD 2173, but was removed from the budget because the Constitution of Maine prohibits the inclusion in an emergency bill of a provision for the sale or renting for more than 5 years of real estate.

LD 2298 An Act To Improve the Reporting Requirements of Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC 623

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2298 requires expanded information in annual reports by boards and commissions to the Secretary of State. The report must include additional information related to reimbursement and expenses and information on other types of reimbursement such as stipends, facility rental costs, refreshment costs, public hearing costs and any other expenses. The clerk of each board or commission is required to estimate the number of hours devoted to the task of being the clerk. The report must contain a brief summary of the board's activities. The bill updates the statute to reflect that reports are now filed electronically rather than on paper forms. This bill was report out by the State and Local Government Committee pursuant to Joint Order, H.P. 1635.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 623 requires expanded information in annual reports by boards and commissions to the Secretary of State. The report must include additional information related to reimbursement and expenses and information on other types of reimbursement such as stipends, facility rental costs, refreshment costs, public hearing costs and any other expenses. The clerk of each board or commission is required to estimate the number of hours devoted to the task of being the clerk. The report must contain a brief summary of the board's activities. The law updates the statute to reflect that reports are now filed electronically rather than on paper forms.