

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

July 2009

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH 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 124th 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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

LD 37 An Act To Allow a Weight Tolerance for Vehicle Auxiliary Power Units

PUBLIC 3

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

This bill extends a weight tolerance for vehicle auxiliary power units in the laws governing highway weight limits for vehicles.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 3 extends a weight tolerance for vehicle auxiliary power units in the laws governing highway weight limits for vehicles.

LD 38 An Act To Allow the Use of Only 2 Studded Tires on Front-wheel-drive Vehicles

ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINKHAM	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

This bill allows a front-wheel-drive vehicle to have studded snow tires on its front wheels only.

LD 39 An Act To Enhance Motorcycle Safety

PUBLIC 441

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT P GERZOFISKY	OTP-AM	H-39

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to erect informational signs on roads where rumble strips are located to enhance motorcycle safety.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-39)

This amendment, which replaces the bill, requires the Department of Transportation to install signs on any state highway where centerline rumble strips are located to inform a driver that the driver is approaching a rumble strip and specifies that the signs must comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 441 requires the Department of Transportation to install signs on any state highway where centerline rumble strips are located to inform a driver that the driver is approaching a rumble strip and

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

specifies that the signs must comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration.

LD 40 An Act To Prohibit Certain Uses of Cellular Telephones and Handheld Electronic Devices while Operating a Motor Vehicle

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOGAN BLISS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill prohibits the use of a handheld cellular telephone and a handheld electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. The bill clarifies that law enforcement officers, corrections officers, firefighters, drivers of authorized emergency vehicles, holders of commercial driver's licenses, physicians, municipal public works personnel, Maine Turnpike Authority personnel and state transportation personnel, including all employees and contractors of the Department of Transportation, may use handheld cellular telephones while driving within the scope of their employment. The bill makes the offense a traffic infraction.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-31)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, expands the list of those exempt from the prohibition against using a handheld cellular telephone and a handheld electronic device while operating a motor vehicle to include personnel of a public utility within the scope of their employment.

The amendment also provides that the definition of "handheld electronic device" does not include a radio licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, including, but not limited to, a citizen band or amateur radio, a change that has the effect of allowing persons to use radios while driving. The amendment prohibits the use of a radio while driving in an area designated by the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority as a construction zone but allows workers within construction zones to continue to use handheld cellular telephones, handheld electronic devices or radios licensed by the Federal Communications Commission if it is within the scope of their employment.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 41 An Act To Prohibit the Use of a Handheld Cellular Telephone While Operating a Motor Vehicle

ONTP

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

This bill prohibits the use of a handheld cellular telephone and text messaging while operating a motor vehicle. The bill clarifies that law enforcement officers, corrections officers, firefighters, drivers of authorized emergency vehicles, holders of commercial driver's licenses, physicians, municipal public works personnel, Maine Turnpike Authority personnel and state transportation personnel, including all employees and contractors of the Department of Transportation, may use handheld cellular telephones while driving within the scope of their employment. The bill makes the offense a traffic infraction.