

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 LEGAL AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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 Legal and Veterans Affairs

**LD 102 An Act To Exempt a Door Prize Awarded at a Fishing Tournament
from Being Classified as a Game of Chance ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M BRYANT B	ONTP	

This bill provides that a door prize offered by an organization conducting a fishing tournament permitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is not a game of chance for purposes of licensing games of chance pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17, chapter 14.

**LD 105 An Act To Increase the Allowable Contributions to Traditionally
Funded Campaigns ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P SMITH D	ONTP	

This bill increases the amount of allowable contributions to the campaigns of candidates for the State Senate and the State House of Representatives who do not participate in Maine Clean Election Act funding from \$250 to \$500 and the amount of allowable contributions to the campaigns of candidates for Governor who do not participate in Maine Clean Election Act funding from \$500 to \$2,000.

LD 116 An Act To Allow Political Signs on Private Property Only ONTP

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

This bill restricts the placing of political signs to private property. The bill also requires the permission of a landowner before a political sign may be placed on private property and allows a landowner to remove the sign if permission was not obtained.

**LD 129 Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Conduct a Pilot Program
for Early Voting for the November 2009 Election RESOLVE 24**

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

This resolve directs the Secretary of State to administer a pilot program for early voting that would allow selected municipalities to conduct early voting at polling places up to 10 days prior to the November 3, 2009 election day.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 24 directs the Secretary of State to administer a pilot program for early voting that would allow selected municipalities to conduct early voting at polling places up to 10 days prior to the November 3, 2009 election day and report back to the committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs by January 15, 2010.

LD 140 An Act To Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate from Participating in Political Action Committee Funding ONTP

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

This bill prohibits Maine Clean Election Act candidates from participating in political action committees that are established to influence the election or defeat of legislative candidates or to support that candidate's effort to be elected to a legislative leadership position.

LD 150 Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Conduct a Pilot Program for Ongoing Absentee Voter Status RESOLVE 94

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK SULLIVAN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-182

This bill provides a process for voters to request ongoing absentee voter status, which allows them to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election until the status is terminated.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-182)

This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes a resolve to direct the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program regarding establishing ongoing absentee voter status.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 94 directs the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program for giving voters ongoing absentee voter status. The pilot must include 3 statewide elections in November 2009, June 2010 and November 2010. The Secretary of state is required to submit a report regarding the pilot program by February 15, 2011.

LD 193 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Tournament Games PUBLIC 457

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT P	OTP-AM	H-84 S-323 DIAMOND