

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 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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 Health and Human Services

LD 254 **An Act To Enact a 5-point Welfare Reform Program**

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This bill enacts a 5-point welfare reform package. The bill imposes a 90-day residency requirement for general assistance, provides the New Hire tax credit for employers hiring recipients of welfare benefits, changes the 20-hour work participation requirement in the ASPIRE-TANF program, adjusts benefits to reflect earned income and imposes a 60-month lifetime limitation on ASPIRE-TANF benefits for adults. This bill specifies that the New Hire tax credit applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

LD 315 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources To Develop a Plan To Facilitate the Procurement of Local Produce by Food Stamp Recipients**

ONTP

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

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to work with local farmers and advocates for low-income people to develop a plan that will encourage food stamp recipients to purchase fresh produce from local farmers and that will facilitate food stamp recipients' access to local farm products. It requires the departments to consider projects that allow farmers to receive electronic benefit transfers or other methods of payment under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and to explore options for grants, pilot projects and waivers that may be available under the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. It requires the departments to present a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services with findings and recommendations, including any necessary legislation, for the plan no later than January 15, 2010. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, in a letter, commends the departments on existing work with farmers markets already underway to allow food supplement recipients to purchase local produce. The letter encourages the departments to explore new ideas to connect Food Supplement recipients with local farmers and requests that the departments investigate federal funding for pilot projects under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, which is the second part of the resolve's directive. The letter requests that the departments keep the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services abreast of any new projects or grants that result from this effort.