

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 EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL 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 Education and Cultural Affairs

**LD 248 An Act To Transfer Authority for School Food Service Programs to the
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

ONTP

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

This bill transfers responsibilities for administering school food service programs from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources upon approval of the United States Department of Agriculture. It provides for a transition period until the department has the necessary rules and procedures in place to implement the transfer.

LD 266 An Act To Preserve Statewide Public Broadcasting

PUBLIC 62

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM	S-33

This bill requires, as a condition of receiving state funding, that the Maine Public Broadcasting Network operate all of its existing radio towers and television transmitters or an equivalent network providing equal or better broadcast coverage. If the condition is violated, the Maine Public Broadcasting Network must return the state funding.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-33)

This amendment eliminates the use of the terms "towers" and "transmitters." It specifies that facilities used to provide signals must be maintained to provide broadcast coverage that equals or exceeds the coverage in place on February 1, 2009. It specifies that the corporation operating the statewide public broadcasting network has not failed to meet the broadcast requirements if the reason for a signal being off the air is outside the control of the corporation or if all signals in the network are off the air for an equal period of time.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 62 requires , as a condition of receiving state funding, that the Maine Public Broadcasting Network operate and maintain facilities to provide broadcast coverage that equals or exceeds the coverage in place on February 1, 2009. It specifies that the corporation operating the statewide public broadcasting network has not failed to meet the broadcast requirements if the reason for a signal being off the air is outside the control of the corporation or if all signals in the network are off the air for an equal period of time.