

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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STAFF:

DANIELLE D. FOX, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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 368 An Act To Reimburse Debra Bilodeau for Her Expenses Incurred in Connection with Her Petition for Appointment as a Foster Parent

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROCKETT P	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-347

This bill makes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2009-10 to reimburse Debra Bilodeau for her expenses incurred in connection with her petition for appointment as a foster parent.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-347)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 368 was enacted in the House, but placed on the Special Appropriations Table in the Senate. Since no further action was taken by the Senate, the bill died upon adjournment.

LD 371 An Act To Allow One Registration Fee for Multiple-town Poker Runs

ONTP

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

This bill allows for a combined license for organizations that coordinate to conduct a game of chance that requires participants to travel from one location to another in order to play the game, such as a poker run. The fee for such a license may not exceed \$25.

LD 374 An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Campaign Report Exemptions

PUBLIC 138

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VALENTINO	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-188

This bill amends the provision of law that allows exemptions for reporting on campaigns for office to provide that a notice from a candidate or the candidate's agent that the candidate will not personally accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations may be revoked at any time prior to the deadline for filing a candidate's first campaign finance report.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-188)

This amendment replaces the bill. It amends current law that allows for candidates for office to be exempt from submitting campaign finance reports if they raise or spend no money on campaigns so that this exemption applies only to county or municipal candidates.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 138 amends current law that allows for candidates for office to be exempt from submitting campaign finance reports if they raise or spend no money on campaigns so that this exemption applies only to county or municipal candidates.

LD 410 An Act To Improve Maine's Ethics Laws

ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT

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

This bill prohibits Legislators from soliciting donations or contributions from lobbyists on behalf of the Legislator's employer.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-172)

This amendment replaces the bill. It limits the prohibition on Legislators' soliciting or accepting donations or contributions on behalf of their employers proposed in the bill to Legislators who are employed by nonprofit corporations.

LD 429 An Act To Increase Retail Sales of Wine

ONTP

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

This bill repeals the limitation that a wine tasting for an off-premise establishment may only be held once a calendar month.

LD 430 An Act To Allow the Licensing of Minibars in Hotel Rooms

PUBLIC 458

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE SULLIVAN	OTP-AM	H-134 H-290 TRINWARD

Under this bill, a hotel owner that has or wants minibars in hotel rooms may, but is not required to, obtain a license for the minibars.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-134)

This amendment clarifies the definition of "minibar" and increases the license fee for a minibar from \$100 as