

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 STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

July 2009

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* Rep. William P. Browne replaced Rep. Michael Celli for part of the First Regular Session. Rep. Celli will return for the Second Regular Session.

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 State and Local Government

**LD 605 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State**

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This bill is a resolution proposing to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide for direct popular election of the Secretary of State in the manner currently provided for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, beginning in 2010.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)

This amendment, which is the minority report, incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 619 An Act To Rename Certain Unorganized Townships in Washington
County**

P & S 13

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| RAYE | OTP-AM | S-26 |

This bill authorizes the Washington County commissioners to seek approval from the residents of No. 14 Twp. to rename the township Cathance Township; the residents of T 18 ED BPP to rename the township Berry Township; the residents of No. 21 Twp. to rename the township Big Lake Township; the residents of T 27 ED BPP to rename the township Greenlaw Chopping Township; and the residents of T 31 MD BPP to rename the township Day Block Township.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-26)

This amendment removes all the ratification referenda from the bill. The new names will go into effect 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Private & Special Law 2009, chapter 13 changes the names of the following unorganized townships in Washington County: No. 14 Twp. is named Cathance Township; T 18 ED BPP is named Berry Township; No. 21 Twp. is named Big Lake Township; T 27 ED BPP is named Greenlaw Chopping Township; and T 31 MD BPP is named Day Block Township. The new names go into effect on September 12, 2009.

**LD 680 An Act To Hold Municipal Officers Harmless for a Determination That
a Town Way or Public Easement Is Considered Abandoned**

PUBLIC 59

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HASTINGS | OTP | |