

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

requirements regarding revenue and expenditure reporting and disposition of funds reports are also applicable to registrants. A registrant who violates the registration requirements is required to forfeit the revenue from those games conducted in violation and would be prohibited from using the registration privilege for 10 years.

LD 832 An Act To Require Lobbyists To Wear Name Tags

PUBLIC 137

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-189

This bill amends the law governing lobbyist disclosure by:

1. Requiring the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to publish an online photographic guide to lobbyists and lobbyist associates organized by legislative committee and requiring that lobbyists submit photographs unless the lobbyists or lobbyist associates have waivers from the commission; and
2. Restoring language that was removed in Public Law 2007, chapter 630 that requires every registered lobbyist to file in a monthly report the amount of compensation received for and the amount of expenditures made or incurred with regard to the preparation of documents and research for the primary purpose of influencing legislative action.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-189)

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. The amendment requires that a lobbyist wear a name tag when engaged in the act of lobbying.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 137 requires that a lobbyist wear a name tag when engaged in the act of lobbying.

LD 833 An Act To Distribute Funds Received from the Racino in Bangor to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse

Carried Over

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY SULLIVAN		

This bill redirects 3% of revenues from slot machines that currently go to the Gambling Control Board to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse for use in the treatment of addiction. This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P 1053.

LD 834 An Act To Provide for 2 Veteran Service Officer Positions

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY	OTP-AM	

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

This bill provides a General Fund appropriation of \$172,000 for fiscal year 2009-10 and \$165,000 for fiscal year 2010-11 for 2 Veteran Service Officer positions and related travel and administrative costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-444)

This amendment provides a General Fund appropriation of \$86,000 for fiscal year 2009-10 and \$82,500 for fiscal year 2010-11 for one Veteran Service Officer position and related travel and administrative costs. Funding for a Veteran Service Officer position was incorporated into the biennial budget as part of LD 353.

LD 835 An Act To Amend the Forcible Entry and Detainer Laws

PUBLIC 171

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEARY	OTP-AM	H-162

This bill allows a landlord in a forcible entry and detainer matter to amend orally or in writing a 7-day notice of termination of tenancy to a tenant and allows a landlord to combine a 7-day notice and a 30-day notice of termination of tenancy in one notice. This bill also requires a tenant to answer a forcible entry and detainer complaint in writing if the tenant wants a hearing on the matter.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-162)

This amendment allows a landlord in a forcible entry and detainer matter to combine a 7-day notice and a 30-day notice of termination of tenancy in one notice. The amendment also provides that the notice may not be held invalid as a result of minor clerical errors. This amendment also reformats and makes other minor changes in current language.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 171 allows a landlord in a forcible entry and detainer matter to combine a 7-day notice and a 30-day notice of termination of tenancy in one notice. The law also provides that the notice may not be held invalid as a result of minor clerical errors.

LD 870 An Act To Improve Transportation for Veterans

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO ROSEN R	OTP-AM	H-342

This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$15,000 per year to support the operating costs of the disabled American veterans' transportation network, which provides round-trip transportation services to Veterans' Administration medical facilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-342)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note. Funding to assist transportation of veterans for the purposes of medical care was included in the biennial budget, LD 353.