

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## 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 124<sup>th</sup> 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 124<sup>th</sup> 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

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.