

# 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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**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

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*

**LD 949 An Act To Reduce the Number of Qualifying Contributions Required for Special Elections under the Maine Clean Election Act**

**ONTP**

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

This bill reduces the amount of qualifying contributions required under the Maine Clean Election Act for special election candidates for the State Senate and the State House of Representatives to 75 contributions from registered voters for the Senate candidate and 25 contributions from registered voters for the House of Representatives candidate.

**LD 971 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Liquor Liability and Licensing**

**PUBLIC 247**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY	OTP-AM	H-325

This bill amends the laws governing liquor liability and licensing.

1. It requires that a licensee that holds a license for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises where sold to maintain liability insurance of no less than \$400,000;
2. It repeals the limitation on awards for damages under the Maine Liquor Liability Act;
3. It repeals the written notice requirement to defendants under the Maine Liquor Liability Act; and
4. It extends from 2 to 6 years the statute of limitations for bringing an action under the Maine Liquor Liability Act.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-325)**

This amendment replaces the bill. It increases the limitation on damages permitted under the Maine Liquor Liability Act from \$250,000 to \$350,000.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 247 increases the limitation on damages permitted under the Maine Liquor Liability Act from \$250,000 to \$350,000.