

# 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 TAXATION**

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 Taxation

**LD 976**      **An Act To Provide Tax Relief**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

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

This bill is a citizen-initiated bill that imposes expenditure limitations on state and local government and requires voter approval of state tax increases.

The bill requires majority approval by the voters for the annual indexing for inflation of motor fuel taxes.

The bill requires counties and municipalities to use a cost center budget summary format developed by the Department of Audit and requires information in that format to be made available to local voters, filed annually with Maine Revenue Services and posted on any publicly accessible website maintained by the county or municipality as well as on the Maine Revenue Services website.

Pursuant to the Maine Constitution, this measure will be placed on the ballot in November 2009.

**LD 993**      **An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study the Protection of Farms and Farmland Pertaining to Taxation**

**Carried Over**

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

This bill provides that amounts used to demonstrate eligibility under the farm and open space tax laws must be from the sale of agricultural products as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 152. It also provides for towns to be reimbursed 90% of the revenue lost for farmland classified under the farm and open space tax laws.

It also provides a transferable income tax credit for voluntary contributions of farmland for conservation and for conservation easements of farmland that qualify as charitable donations under the federal income tax. The credit is equal to 15% of the value of the donation up to \$250,000 for corporate donors and \$100,000 for other donors. The credit is refundable up to 20% per year.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

**LD 1013**      **An Act To Protect the Environment through Promoting the Use of Clean Fuel Vehicles**

**ACCEPTED ONTP  
REPORT**

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

This bill provides an income tax credit for the purchase of a clean fuel vehicle. It provides that the revenue loss from the credit will be reimbursed from the Energy and Carbon Savings Trust Fund.