

# 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  
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 Legal and Veterans Affairs*

**LD 978**

**Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices To Develop Recommendations for Ethical Standards for the Executive Branch**

**RESOLVE 88**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| RAYE              | OTP-AM                  | S-173                     |

This bill expands the statutory duties of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to include jurisdiction over the executive branch of government.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-173)**

This amendment replaces the bill and establishes a resolve that directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to examine existing ethical standards governing the executive branch and make advisory recommendations for the establishment of statutory ethical standards for the executive branch.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2009, chapter 88 directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to examine existing ethical standards governing the executive branch and make advisory recommendations for the establishment of statutory ethical standards for the executive branch.

**LD 982**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Ethics**

**PUBLIC 208**

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

This bill clarifies that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may submit to the Legislature legislative proposals by commission members and staff in addition to legislative proposals based on suggestions from outside sources, as permitted in current law. The bill also defines "domestic partner" in the legislative ethics laws for purposes of conflicts of interest and annual reporting of sources of Legislators' income.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 208 provides that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may submit to the Legislature legislative proposals by commission members and staff in addition to legislative proposals based on suggestions from outside sources, as permitted in current law. The bill also defines "domestic partner" in the legislative ethics laws for purposes of conflicts of interest and annual reporting of sources of Legislators' income.