

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 TAXATION

July 2009

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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 Taxation

LD 1273 An Act To Simplify the Application for Benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program

Carried Over

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| STUCKEY PERRY J | | |

This bill amends the Maine Residents Property Tax Program, also known as the Circuitbreaker Program, by allowing an individual to apply for a benefit using the individual income tax form. The filing period for benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program is changed to January 1st to the following June 30th, beginning with benefit years beginning after 2009. This bill allows the individual to take the benefit directly or apply it as a credit against income taxes owed by that individual. See also LD 1495.

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

LD 1279 An Act To Reduce Income Tax to 4.5% and Remove Low-income Families from Taxation

Carried Over

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

This bill requires the transfer to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents, beginning in fiscal year 2010-11, of any growth in revenues over the previous fiscal year adjusted by the growth limitation factor. Money in the fund is to be used to reduce the overall individual income tax burden by reducing the tax rates until the top rate is reduced to 4.5% and increasing to \$30,000 the income threshold below which families will not pay income tax.

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

LD 1284 An Act To Create a Scholarship Granting Organization Tax Credit

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This bill provides an income tax credit for contributions to a nonprofit organization that grants scholarships to students at public or private elementary and secondary schools. The school must grant at least as many scholarships to students whose family income is no more than the income eligibility guidelines for free lunch program as the county average of such students. The organization must demonstrate financial accountability and file annual reports with MRS. Scholarships may not be limited to students at a particular school. The credit may not exceed 50% of the taxes due.