

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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 BUSINESS, RESEARCH
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

July 2009

MEMBERS:

SEN. ELIZABETH M. SCHNEIDER, CHAIR
SEN. NANCY B. SULLIVAN
SEN. CHRISTOPHER W. RECTOR

REP. NANCY E. SMITH, CHAIR
REP. RICHARD C. CLEARY
REP. W. BRUCE MACDONALD
REP. THOMAS J. WRIGHT
REP. JOAN F. COHEN
REP. ROBERT B. HUNT
REP. JAMES R. MARTIN
REP. JAYNE CROSBY GILES
REP. SUSAN M.W. AUSTIN
REP. KERRI L. PRESCOTT

STAFF:

NATALIE L. HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 1389 An Act To Create State and Regional Quality of Place Investment Strategies for High-value Jobs, Products and Services in Maine

Carried Over

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

Part A establishes the Maine Quality of Place Council to act as a coordinating body for state and regional quality of place investment strategies. The council consists of state and regional public agency representatives and private citizens. Its responsibilities include working with other state agencies to recommend how state agencies may align their laws, programs and funding with a state quality of place investment strategy to support regional efforts and assessing how regional quality of place investment strategies align with state efforts. The council will also create performance measures to assess state and regional quality of place investment strategies. It will also award annually Maine Quality of Place Prosperity Awards recognizing the preservation, enhancing and marketing of Maine's quality of place assets to stimulate job creation and economic prosperity.

Part A also provides definitions for both state and regional quality of place investment strategies. It establishes a fund for implementing regional quality of place investment strategies. The fund will consist of any bond proceeds and any public and private contributions received for its purpose. This Part also requires applications for other state program funds to receive preference points if they are submitted as part of a regional quality of place investment strategy.

Part B requires regional planning and development districts that have in place a United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration comprehensive economic development strategy to develop a regional quality of place investment strategy by engaging regional sector leaders, setting priorities and leveraging public and private development activities and funds.

Part C requires the Executive Department, State Planning Office to provide assistance to the Maine Quality of Place Council, engage in public education regarding asset-based investment strategies and a state quality of place investment strategy and work with regional planning and development districts to aid them in development of regional quality of place investment strategies.

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

LD 1393 An Act To Provide an Exception to the Pine Tree Development Zone Requirements for Seafood Processing Businesses

Carried Over

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

This bill provides a new exception category for qualification for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits for a seafood processing business that makes certain written commitments. The process for qualifying for this exception and the conditions for meeting those qualifications are similar to those that presently exist for manufacturing businesses in order for them to qualify for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits under circumstances in which they would not otherwise be qualified.

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

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

LD 1394 An Act To Modify the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program

PUBLIC 131

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH N SCHNEIDER	OTP	

This bill amends certain provisions of the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program under the Finance Authority of Maine.

1. Current law provides that a corporation may not receive more than \$2,500,000 from the program fund. This bill increases that amount to \$3,500,000.
2. Current law provides that a financial assistance application determination is final in the case of loans under \$100,000. This bill increases that amount to \$150,000.
3. Current law specifies financing terms and conditions for loans made from program funds. This bill amends certain of those provisions.
4. This bill amends the descriptions of eligible projects, and expands eligibility to entities until June 30, 2010.
5. Current law specifies that a business with 5 or fewer employees may be eligible for financial assistance under the program. This bill increases the number of employees to 10 or fewer.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 131 amends the following provisions of the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program under the Finance Authority of Maine:

1. Current law provides that a corporation may not receive more than \$2,500,000 from the program fund. This law increases that amount to \$3,500,000.
2. Current law provides that a financial assistance application determination is final in the case of loans under \$100,000. This law increases that amount to \$150,000.
3. Current law specifies financing terms and conditions for loans made from program funds. This law amends certain of those provisions.
4. It amends the descriptions of eligible projects, and expands eligibility to entities until June 30, 2010.
5. Current law specifies that a business with 5 or fewer employees may be eligible for financial assistance under the program. This law increases the number of employees to 10 or fewer.