

# 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 APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

July 2009

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# 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

**LD 1483      Resolve, To Stimulate the Maine Economy by Allowing the Federal First-time Home Buyer Tax Credit To Be Used at Closing of a Real Estate Transaction**

**RESOLVE 133  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEARY	OTP-AM	H-569

This bill allows the Treasurer of State to deposit up to \$4,000,000 with financial institutions in the State at a reduced rate of return and requires those financial institutions to provide bridge loans to first-time home buyers for the purpose of making home energy improvements or down payment assistance to allow those first-time home buyers to take advantage of the federal housing tax credit for first-time home buyers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-569)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that provides that, if the United States Internal Revenue Service permits the first-time home buyer tax credit available under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be paid directly to 3rd parties, the administrator of the Maine Consumer Credit Code may adopt routine technical rules to facilitate the use of the tax credit funds for the financing of all or part of the down payment, closing costs, prepaid expenses and home energy improvement costs of first-time home buyers by supervised lenders and supervised financial organizations.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2009, chapter 133 provides that, if the United States Internal Revenue Service permits the first-time home buyer tax credit available under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be paid directly to 3rd parties, the administrator of the Maine Consumer Credit Code may adopt routine technical rules to facilitate the use of the tax credit funds for the financing of all or part of the down payment, closing costs, prepaid expenses and home energy improvement costs of first-time home buyers by supervised lenders and supervised financial organizations.

Resolve 2009, chapter 133 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2009.

**LD 1489      An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011**

**PUBLIC 371  
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 1489 is the Governor's proposed emergency Supplemental Budget Bill for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011. It was introduced in the House without reference to a committee.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 371 does the following:

## *Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

PART A makes supplemental appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of State Government necessary to the proper operation of State Government for fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

PART B amends the transfer amount from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to General Fund unappropriated surplus at the close of fiscal year 2008-09 approved in Public Law 2009, chapter 213, Part MMM and eliminates the fiscal year 2009-10 transfer and transfers a specified amount to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund at the end of fiscal year 2010-11 in addition to funds that would otherwise be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund under current statute.

PART C ensures that up to a specified amount of the balance of the General Fund unappropriated surplus at the close of fiscal year 2008-09 is made available as a resource for the 2009-10 General Fund budget as enacted in Public Law 2009, chapter 213.

Public Law 2009, chapter 371 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 11, 2009.