

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND  
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*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; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

***Joint Standing Committee on Transportation***

**LD 597      An Act To Provide Funding for the State Transit, Aviation and Rail  
Transportation Fund**

**MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

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

This bill removes the cap on the annual amount available for distribution under the transit bonus payment program, which is currently set at 2.5% of the annual funding dedicated for the Urban-Rural Initiative Program.

It also increases from 50% to 100% the transfer to the STAR Transportation Fund of revenue from the tax imposed on the value of rental of an automobile.

**LD 610      An Act To Clarify the Procedure by Which a Salvage Company May  
Apply for a Motor Vehicle Title**

**PUBLIC 88**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COURTNEY	OTP-AM	S-45

This bill allows a salvage company or similar entity that is in possession of an unclaimed vehicle after release by an insurance company, financial institution or dealer and notice to the owner to obtain title to that vehicle.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-45)**

This amendment makes technical changes to clarify that the owner of a vehicle left without a transferable title on the premises of an independent entity that temporarily stores a damaged or dismantled vehicle pursuant to an agreement with an insurance company, financial institution or dealer has 30 days after notice to pick up the vehicle before the vehicle is considered abandoned.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 88 allows a salvage company or similar entity that is in possession of an unclaimed vehicle after release by an insurance company, financial institution or dealer and notice to the owner to obtain title to that vehicle. It also clarifies that the owner of a vehicle left without a transferable title on the premises of an independent entity that temporarily stores a damaged or dismantled vehicle pursuant to an agreement with an insurance company, financial institution or dealer has 30 days after notice to pick up the vehicle before the vehicle is considered abandoned.

**LD 618      An Act To Authorize a GARVEE Bond for the Memorial Bridge in  
Kittery**

**ONTP**

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

*Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*

This bill authorizes the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to issue \$35,000,000 in federally authorized grant anticipation revenue vehicle debt financing instruments, GARVEE bonds, to be repaid with federal transportation funds, the proceeds of which will be used by the Department of Transportation to repair the Memorial Bridge, which carries Route 1 across the Piscataqua River, programmed in the 2012-2013 biennium.

**LD 622      An Act To Permit the Display of the National Emergency Service Medal      PUBLIC 22  
on Registration Plates of Recipients**

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

This bill allows the Secretary of State to issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces, was honorably discharged and was awarded the National Emergency Service Medal.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 22 allows the Secretary of State to issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces, was honorably discharged and was awarded the National Emergency Service Medal.

**LD 625      An Act To Amend the Law Pertaining to Loaner Registration Plates      PUBLIC 44**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELIVEAU HILL	OTP-AM	H-71

This bill removes the restriction that prohibits all but new car dealers from using special loaner plates bearing the same combination of letters and numbers as appears on the dealer's special initial registration plates.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-71)**

This amendment strikes the bill and authorizes the Secretary of State to select and issue special distinguishing letters, marks or designs for number plates issued to owners of body shops, transmission shops and garages. The amendment also provides that a used car dealer or an owner of a body shop, transmission shop or garage may apply for special vanity registration plates that may bear letters or combinations of letters and numbers that are approved by the Secretary of State. The amendment allows a used car dealer or an owner of a body shop, transmission shop or garage to apply for special vanity loaner plates bearing the same combination of letters and numbers as appears on the special vanity registration plates.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 44 authorizes the Secretary of State to select and issue special distinguishing letters, marks or designs for number plates issued to owners of body shops, transmission shops and garages. It also provides that a used car dealer or an owner of a body shop, transmission shop or garage may apply for special vanity registration plates that may bear letters or combinations of letters and numbers that are approved by the Secretary of State. The law allows a used car dealer or an owner of a body shop, transmission shop or garage to apply for special vanity loaner plates bearing the same combination of letters and numbers as appears on the special vanity registration