



2007 Bills On Maine Preservation's Watch List Passed by the Governor

("It's been a busy session!" –members of Maine Preservation's Public Policy Committee and staff)

LD 145, *An Act To Allocate a Portion of the Land for Maine's Future Fund for the Purchase of Archaeological Sites*

This bill, sponsored by Representative Donald Soctomah (also the Passamaquoddy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer), established a minimum 5% allocation from the Land for Maine's Future Fund for the purchase of significant archeological sites.

LD 336, *An Act To Reauthorize the Community Preservation Advisory Committee*

LD 677, *Resolve, Directing the Development of a Building Code and Building Rehabilitation Code Implementation Plan*

This resolve, sponsored by the Community Preservation Advisory Committee, directs the Executive Department, State Planning Office with assistance from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to develop a plan for implementing the Maine Model Building Code and the International Existing Building Code. Amy Cole Ives (amy.cole-ives@maine.gov), now with the State Planning Office, will take the lead coordinating role.

LD 780, *Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development To Convene a Working Group To Advance the Redevelopment of Mill Buildings.*

LD 816, *An Act To Improve the Historic Preservation Tax Credit.*

This site-specific bill provides a refundable tax credit of up to \$1.5 million per year for five years to the developers of the former Lockwood Mills (aka Hathaway Shirt Factory) in Waterville, a National Register complex located within a Pine Tree Zone.

LD 927, *An Act To Preserve Historic Architecture by Encouraging Owner-occupied Small Business Conversions*

This bill provides that a private home that is designated or eligible to be designated as a historic building is not considered a lodging place if it does not gross more than \$100,000 annually and does not let more than seven rooms or does not have more than 15 unrelated guests at one time.

LD 1796, *An Act To Authorize Bond Issues for Ratification by the Voters for the June and November 2007 Elections*

Senate President Beth Edmonds took the lead in sponsoring this multi-part bond bill which provides, among a large list, \$20 million for state historic sites and parks, \$2 million for the New Century Community grants program and \$40 million for Land for Maine's Future. This bill includes bond money for improvements to transportation and public water systems, campus building and school repair and renovation, economic development and downtown revitalization, expansion of cultural tourism and the creative economy.

LD 1927 *Resolve, Regarding Options for Long-term Renovation and Use of the Buildings Formerly Occupied by the Augusta Mental Health Institute (a National Register district)*