

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair

Sen. Carol A. Kontos

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson, Chair

Rep. Patrick Colwell

Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere

Rep. Bruce S. Bryant

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Rep. Richard W. Rosen

Staff:

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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..... *Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
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*
ENACTMENT FAILED..... *Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... *Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died*
INDEF PP..... *Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
ONTP..... *Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
OTP ND..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
OTP ND/NT..... *Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
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*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 64

An Act to Amend the Mexico Water District Charter

**P & S 5
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRYANT FERGUSON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-60
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LD 64 proposed to change the beginning of the term of office of the trustees of the Mexico Water District from the first Monday in April to July 1st to coincide with the current fiscal year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-60) proposed to make certain clarifications in the language of the bill and provide transition language to accomplish the change of the beginning date for the terms of office of the trustees of the Mexico Water District. It also proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 5 changes the beginning of the term of office of the trustees of the Mexico Water District from the first Monday in April to July 1st to coincide with the current fiscal year.

Chapter 5 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 1999.

LD 105

An Act to Clarify Great Northern Paper, Inc.'s Status to Furnish Electricity

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CLARK CAREY	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 105 proposes to repeal the law passed at the end of the 118th Legislature that allows Great Northern Paper, Inc. to continue to furnish electricity to and from its Millinocket facilities without being considered an electric utility.

LD 109

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Mars Hill Utility District

**P & S 4
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KNEELAND PARADIS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-59
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LD 109 proposed to amend the boundaries of the Mars Hill Utility District to encompass the entire Town of Blaine upon approval at referendum.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-59) proposed to remove the provision of the bill making the expansion of the territory of the Mars Hill Utility District subject to referendum in the towns of Blaine and Mars Hill and instead to make the expansion subject to approval by the voters of the Town of Blaine voting in a special or regular town meeting and to approval by the town council in the Town of Mars Hill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 4 amends the boundaries of the Mars Hill Utility District to encompass the entire Town of Blaine upon approval by the voters of the Town of Blaine voting in a special or regular town meeting and by the town council in the Town of Mars Hill.

Chapter 4 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 1999.

LD 208 **An Act to Prohibit Intrastate Telemarketers from Blocking Caller ID** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHIELDS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 208 proposed to prohibit entities conducting intrastate telephone solicitation from using caller-ID blocking.

LD 270 **An Act to Enable Counties to Establish Electricity Agencies** **PUBLIC 178**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-226
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LD 270 proposed to establish the Washington County Electricity Agency to serve as a public aggregator, broker or marketer for consumers of electricity located within Washington County. The bill proposed to authorize the agency to enter into agreements with consumers to serve as a public aggregator, broker or marketer on their behalf and to negotiate and enter into agreements with competitive electricity providers to purchase power on behalf of or broker the purchase of power by consumers served by the agency, beginning on March 1, 2000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-226) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to authorize the county commissioners of a county to establish a county electricity agency to serve as a public aggregator for any electricity consumers, public or private, located in that county. Under the amendment, an agency would not be permitted to require a consumer to join or be served by the agency. All debts and liabilities incurred by an agency or a county through an agency would be the responsibility of the agency or county and would not be a liability of the State.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 178 authorizes the county commissioners of a county to establish a county electricity agency to serve as a public aggregator for any electricity consumers, public or private, located in that county. An agency may not require a consumer to join or be served by the agency. All debts and liabilities incurred by an agency or a county through an agency are the responsibility of the agency or county and are not a liability of the State.