

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:

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Sen. Carol A. Kontos

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson, Chair

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Rep. Richard W. Rosen

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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.

LD 331

An Act to Amend the Renewable Resource Portfolio Requirement for Competitive Electricity Providers

ONTP

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

LD 331 proposed to amend the electric industry restructuring law with respect to the renewable portfolio requirement for competitive providers.

Current law requires each provider to have 30% of its portfolio of supply sources for retail electricity sales in this State accounted for by renewable resources. The law defines renewable resources to be those resources that can be delivered into the New England Power Pool.

This bill proposed to change the definition of renewable resources to require that the electricity generated be deliverable to Maine consumers. It also proposed to change the 30% portfolio standard to a requirement that 30% of a provider's kilowatt-hours sales to retail customers in this State be accounted for by renewable resources.

Changes to the renewable portfolio requirement were made in LD 2154.

LD 333

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Department of Electric Works Within the Town of Madison

P & S 7

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RICHARD MILLS	OTP-AM	H-114

LD 333 proposed to authorize the Department of Electric Works in the Town of Madison to provide natural gas service should that fuel become available.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-114) proposed to make certain technical corrections to the bill and make several further changes to the Madison Electric Works charter to clarify and update certain provisions.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 7 authorizes the Department of Electric Works in the Town of Madison to provide natural gas service should that fuel become available. Such service would be subject to Public Utilities Commission regulation.

LD 471

An Act to Repeal the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Issue Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Electric Transmission

ONTP

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

LD 471 proposed to repeal requirements that electric utilities obtain certificates of public convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission before constructing or modifying transmission lines or contracting for transmission line capacity.