

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
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Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere
Rep. Bruce S. Bryant
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Rep. Richard H. Duncan
Rep. Richard W. Rosen***

Staff:

Jon Clark, Legislative Analyst

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670***



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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.

required to be divested by electric utilities that are transferred to the Low-income Electric Consumer Trust Fund. Under this amendment, only taxes attributable to transfers on sales made after May 21, 1999 would be transferred to the fund.

Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" (S-354) proposed to amend House Amendment "A" to specify that funds in the Maine Low-income Energy Assistance Fund may be used for appliance replacement but not for fuel assistance.

LD 1505 **An Act to Require Performance-based Restoration by Public Utilities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'GARA WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1505 proposed to require that, if a public utility elects to relay excavated pavement, the public ways must be properly restored and maintained following construction by public utilities. The bill proposed to require utilities to perform all restoration in a manner that ensures that the repaired area is restored to as good a condition as the area was in before excavation and to maintain the excavated area for the useful life of the street. The issues raised by this bill were dealt with in LD 1207, which was handled by the Transportation Committee.

LD 1532 **An Act Concerning Liens Held by the Freeport Sewer District** **P & S 14**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BULL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-210
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LD 1532 proposed to update administrative provisions of the Freeport Sewer District's lien authority. It also proposed to authorize the district, as part of its sewer lien procedure, to send affected parties a second notice of sewer liens and impending foreclosure before the date of forfeiture.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-210) proposed to make a technical change to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 14 updates the administrative provisions of the Freeport Sewer District's lien authority. It also authorizes the district, as part of its sewer lien procedure, to send affected parties a second notice of sewer liens and impending foreclosure before the date of forfeiture.

LD 1563 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities** **PUBLIC 227**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1563 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People With Disabilities. The bill proposed to establish