

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Utilities and Energy*

*July 2003*

**Members:**

*Sen. Christopher G. L. Hall, Chair  
Sen. Lynn Bromley  
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood*

*Rep. Lawrence Bliss, Chair  
Rep. Herbert Adams  
Rep. Albion D. Goodwin  
Rep. Peter L. Rines*

*Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen  
Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.  
Rep. Philip A. Cressey, Jr.  
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
Rep. Stanley A. Moody  
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson*

**Staff:**

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# Maine State Legislature



## Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

### 121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

#### Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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](http://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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i> .....	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

**David C. Elliott, Director**  
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

## Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

7. To provide funds for the operation of the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation and for it to conduct certain studies.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-290)** proposed to strike the section of Committee Amendment "A" that provided a General Fund appropriation for the operation of the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation.

### *Enacted Law Summary*

Public Law 2003, chapter 506 accomplishes the following:

1. Authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue up to \$100,000,000 in moral obligation bonds to fund transmission facilities projects, including projects approved by the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation or other electric or gas transmission or energy generation facilities, to benefit northern Maine;
2. Establishes certain criteria for the issuance of such bonds, allows the Finance Authority of Maine to charge certain fees of applicants and requires electric transmission projects of 69 kilovolts or more to receive a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission;
3. Expands the purposes of the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation to include financing, permitting, constructing, owning, operating or otherwise facilitating the construction or operation of facilities for the transmission of natural gas and generation or production and transfer of any other energy source in northern Maine;
4. Clarifies that the records of the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation are subject to the same confidentiality provisions as the records of the Finance Authority of Maine;
5. Authorizes the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation to adopt rules and enter into contracts; and
1. Allows the Public Utilities Commission to deny a certificate of public convenience and necessity for an electric transmission line proposed to be financed by the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation or the Finance Authority of Maine if the commission finds the line is reasonably likely to adversely affect any transmission and distribution utility or its ratepayers.

Public Law 2003, chapter 506 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 26, 2003.

**LD 183**

**An Act To Ensure Lower Electricity Costs in Maine**

**ONTP**

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

LD 183 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to:

1. Implement only those electricity conservation programs that actually reduce the cost of electricity to consumers in the State; and

## *Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy*

2. Choose as standard-offer provider the provider or providers that submit the lowest responsible bid or bids that meet the criteria set by the commission for standard-offer service providers.

**LD 214**                      **An Act to Streamline Utility Consumer Advocacy**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 214 proposed to abolish the Office of the Public Advocate. It proposed to direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to develop and present to the Legislature a report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, regarding which functions, if any, of the Office of the Public Advocate need to continue to be performed and by whom they should be performed.

**LD 222**                      **An Act Providing for Regulation of the Cable Television Industry**                      **CARRIED OVER**  
**by the Public Utilities Commission**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GERZOFSKY EDMONDS		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 222 proposes to subject basic tier cable tv service rates and services to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission. The bill also proposes to establish hearing and complaint procedures for rate increases or product or service changes by a cable system operator and to direct the commission, on petition of 25 or more customers, to petition the Federal Communications Commission to address any increases or changes that the commission finds to be unreasonable.

**LD 231**                      **An Act To Strengthen Delivery of Electricity Conservation**                      **PUBLIC 217**  
**Programs**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-88
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LD 231 proposed to eliminate language that limits the Public Utilities Commission's ability to increase an assessment on a transmission and distribution utility for the cost of electricity conservation programs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-88)** proposed to replace the bill and require that proportional equivalency in the Public Utilities Commission's conservation assessments on transmission and distribution utilities be based on a per-kilowatt-hour calculation rather than total transmission and distribution utility revenues.

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 217 requires that proportional equivalency in the Public Utilities Commission's conservation assessments on transmission and distribution utilities be based on a per-kilowatt-hour calculation rather than total transmission and distribution utility revenues.