

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

*Second Regular Session and
Second Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

May 2004

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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
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Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson*

Maine State Legislature



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

*121st Maine Legislature
Second Regular Session and
Second Special 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

- 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
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- 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
- P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PASSED..... Joint Order passed in both bodies
- 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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is April 30, 2004; and non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Special Session is July 30, 2004. Four bills (LD's 1572, 1629, 1636 and 1637) that were considered at the First Special Session in August 2003 are also included in these summaries.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY	ONTP MAJ	
EDMONDS	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 222, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to subject basic tier service rates and services of cable systems to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission. The bill also proposed to establish hearing and complaint procedures for rate increases or product or service changes by a cable system operator and 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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-670) was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. The amendment proposed to add an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

LD 547 **An Act To Increase Bill Reductions for Electricity Customers in
Maine** **ONTP**

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

LD 547

Current law provides for the exercise of some discretion by the Public Utilities Commission in setting assessment rates for funding electricity conservation programs for Maine's electricity customers. The PUC can set the assessment no lower than .5% of a transmission and distribution utility's total revenues and no higher than .15 cents per kilowatt hour. LD 547, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to establish a single rate, .25 cent per kilowatt-hour, for all investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the State while leaving with the commission discretion for setting an assessment rate for consumer-owned utilities.

LD 639 **An Act To Ensure Accurate Electric Rates for the Ski Industry** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCGLOCKLIN	ONTP	
HATCH PH		

LD 639, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish rates for transmission and distribution utility service to ski areas for lift operation and snowmaking that accurately reflect the winter and summer peaks in use of transmission and distribution utilities.