

# 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*

a single rate, .25 cent per kilowatt-hour, for all investor-owned utilities in the State but to leave with the commission discretion in setting an assessment rate for consumer-owned utilities.

**LD 548**                      **An Act To Require Fair Treatment of Ratepayers When Electric Utilities Are Sold**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 548 proposed to prohibit electric utilities that are purchased after January 1, 2003 at a price above their book value per share from charging to ratepayers the "acquisition premium" (amount paid above the book value).

**LD 569**                      **An Act To Allow the Public Utilities Commission To Exempt Certain Telephone Utilities from the Requirement To Obtain Approval for Special Contracts**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BLISS HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 569 proposed to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to grant exemptions from the requirement that telephone utilities obtain commission approval for special rate contracts with their customers.

**LD 577**                      **An Act To Facilitate Access to Dial-up Internet Service for Telephone Customers throughout the State**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BLISS HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 577 proposed to require that local service telephone lines be capable of providing dial-up Internet access at speeds of 28.8 kilobytes or greater.

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCGLOCKLIN HATCH PH		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 639 proposes to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish rates for transmission and distribution utility service to ski areas in the State for lift operation and snowmaking that accurately reflect the costs of service.