

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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:**

*Jon Clark, Senior Analyst*

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

# 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*

**LD 804**

**An Act To Amend the Standard Water District Enabling Act**

**PUBLIC 147**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-51
---------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

LD 804 proposed to do the following:

1. Grant to each water district authority to protect the volume and quality of water within its territory;
2. Clarify that the registrar of a standard water district must keep a list of all registered voters within the district;
3. Remove a provision relating to water district trustee compensation that requires that such compensation be specified in the bylaws and be for meetings attended and reimbursement for expenses;
4. Allow a water district to increase its debt limit through a referendum procedure; and
5. Impose a lien on property services by water districts to secure payment for unpaid rates.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-51)**, which was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, proposed to remove that portion of the bill that proposed to grant water districts authority to regulate the volume and water quality of water within their territories. The amendment also proposed to make a technical correction in the bill.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 147 does the following:

1. It clarifies that the registrar of a standard water district must keep a list of all registered voters within the district;
2. It removes a provision of law relating to water district trustee compensation that requires that such compensation be specified in the bylaws and be for meetings attended and reimbursement for expenses; under the new provision trustee compensation is set by the trustees as approved by the municipal officers of the municipalities;
3. It allows a water district to increase its debt limit through a referendum procedure; and
4. It imposes a lien on property served by water districts to secure payment for unpaid rates.

**LD 805**

**An Act To Protect Conservation Trust Funds**

**PUBLIC 275**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-133
---------------------------	---	------------------------------------