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

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Sen. Lynn Bromley
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood

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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).

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 PURSUANT TO HP 1212 .... Bills carried over to the 2nd 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
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 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 1053   **An Act To Enhance Renewable Power**   ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MILLS P	ONTP	

LD 1053 proposed to impose, beginning January 1, 2004, assessments on the retail sale of electricity generated by the use of coal, oil and natural gas and direct the Public Utilities Commission to establish by rule a program to use the revenues from this assessment to reduce the cost to consumers of electricity generated by the use of renewable resources. This bill also proposed to change the name of the Renewable Resource Fund to the Voluntary Eligible Renewable Resource Fund to distinguish it from the Maine Renewable Resource Fund created by the bill.

LD 1148   **Resolve, To Establish the Maine Networked Services Task Force**   ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MILLS P	ONTP	

LD 1148 proposed to establish the Maine Networked Services Task Force to study and evaluate the delivery system for networked services such as telecommunications, Internet service, cable television services and electricity.

LD 1157   **An Act To Promote Clean and Efficient Energy**   **CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRENNAN		

LD 1157 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposed to support clean and efficient energy in Maine by:

1. Increasing funding for energy efficiency by establishing a single, statewide system benefit charge for Maine's electricity efficiency program of .15 cents per kilowatt hour in 2003, .25 cents per kilowatt hour in 2006 and .30 cents per kilowatt hour starting in 2008;

2. Establishing new appliance and equipment energy standards for 15 products not currently covered by federal standards;

3. Increasing renewable energy production in Maine by amending the State's renewable energy portfolio standard to gradually increase the percentage of electricity products sold in Maine that are composed of clean, new renewable energy; and

4. Increasing energy efficient building construction by requiring that the so-called "LEED Green Building Standards" be established as the new residential building code in Maine and requiring the State to use this standard for all new state buildings and renovations of state buildings. The bill proposed also to increase enforcement of building codes to ensure compliance. (See LD 1261.)