

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

August 2005

Members:

*Sen. Philip L. Bartlett II, Chair
Sen. Scott W. Cowger
Sen. Carol Weston*

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

*Rep. Christopher W. Babbidge
Rep. John R. Brautigam
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson
Rep. Philip A. Curtis
Rep. Stacey Allen Fitts
Rep. Everett W. McLeod, Sr.*

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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 Bill Carried Over to Second 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
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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 the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

amounts applied to supplement an existing program or fund not result in a reduction in other funding provided for the program or fund unless the reduction were outside the commission's control, the commission found application of the penalty to the fund or program was the most appropriate use of the penalty, and the net effect would be an increase in total funding available to the program or fund.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 432 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to apply administrative penalties it collects in a manner that benefits those customers affected or potentially affected by the violations. If the commission determines this application of the amount to be impractical or unreasonable, it may apply the amount in a manner that benefits the class or group of customers affected or potentially affected by the violation. The commission may apply the amounts in the form of a direct payment or credit to the customers or group or class of customers affected or potentially affected by the violation or to supplement programs or funds that the commission determines would benefit customers affected or potentially affected by the violation. Any amounts applied to supplement an existing program or fund may not result in a reduction in other funding provided for the program or fund unless the reduction is outside the commission's control, the commission finds that application of the penalty amount to the fund or program is the most appropriate use of the penalty, and the net effect will be an increase in total funding available to the program or fund.

LD 125 **An Act To Allow Timothy Gousse To Purchase Water from the Gardiner Water District** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLER COWGER	ONTP	

LD 125 proposed to authorize Timothy Gousse of the Town of Chelsea to petition for and receive water service from the Gardiner Water District.

LD 205 **An Act Providing for Regulation of the Cable Television Industry by the Public Utilities Commission** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY EDMONDS		

LD 205 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 to direct the Public Utilities Commission, on petition of 25 or more customers, to petition the Federal Communications Commission to address any rate increases or changes the Public Utilities Commission found to be unreasonable.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.