

# 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*

**LD 637**

**An Act To Allow Qualified Health Centers To Obtain  
Telecommunications Education Access Funding**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLISS BARTLETT		

LD 637 proposed to add "qualified health centers" to the entities eligible to receive funding from the telecommunications education access fund (MTEAF). "Qualified health centers" would be defined to include federally qualified health centers as well as any health center that provides free public access in medically underserved areas, if the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Health and Human Services determine that including the health center is in the public interest. MTEAF funds would be available for connectivity, ensuring the health centers are capable of using advanced technology equipment, electronic database content, and the provision of telecommunications equipment and increased bandwidth necessary to support electronic health records and telemedicine in medically underserved areas.

The committee by letter requested that the Public Utilities Commission examine the issues raised by the bill and the possible use of universal service funds for these purposes.

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

**LD 642**

**An Act To Limit Telephone Utility Expenses Related to the  
Relocation of Call Centers**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON FLETCHER	ONTP	

LD 642 proposed to provide that the costs of upgrading or installing a new or expanded telephone system or network to accommodate a call center that has relocated from one location within the State to another location within the State must be charged by the telephone utility to the owner or operator of that call center and may not be charged to any other customer.

**LD 656**

**An Act To Revise the Salary Range of Certain Public Utilities  
Commission Employees**

**PUBLIC 23**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLISS BARTLETT	OTP-AM	H-25

LD 656 proposed to amend a provision of law in order to raise the salary range of 6 positions at the Public Utilities Commission and to correct the omission of the director of energy programs from this provision of law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-25)** proposed to incorporate a fiscal note.