

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

4. Direct the Public Utilities Commission to account for resources devoted to matters relating to entities other than public utilities. It proposed to direct the commission to report the results to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than March 1, 2006 and to authorize the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature relating to the Public Utilities Commission and Public Advocate assessments.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 135 modifies laws relating to the assessments which provide funding for the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate.

1. It apportions the assessments on public utilities to fund the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate based on an accounting of resources devoted by each agency to matters related to the various categories of utilities. Within each utility category, the assessment is based on gross intrastate operating revenues;
2. It provides that all unspent funds derived from the Public Advocate assessment and Public Utilities Commission assessment do not lapse but are carried forward to the next fiscal year;
3. It clarifies that the Public Advocate assessment does not produce revenues to fund the State Nuclear Safety Advisor, a position that is separately funded; and
4. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to account for resources devoted to matters relating to entities other than public utilities. It directs the commission to report the results to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than March 1, 2006 and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature relating to assessments which provide funding for the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate.

Public Law 2005, chapter 135 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 2005.

LD 913

An Act To Promote Green Power Use at State Buildings

ONTP

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

LD 913 proposed that by January 1, 2008 all electricity consumed in state-owned or state-leased buildings be supplied by renewable resources. It proposed to require the chair of the Energy Resources Council to develop a plan to achieve this requirement and to submit that plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by April 1, 2006.