

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

July 2006

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

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 (Pocket Veto).....	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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Public Law 2005, chapter 569 does the following:

1. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to encourage school facility managers to receive energy efficiency training under the commission's so-called "Efficiency Maine" program. It authorizes the commission to establish incentive mechanisms in order to encourage participation in this program. It requires the commission to report annually on its progress in meeting these goals and, to the extent possible, on energy savings achieved as a result of such training;
2. It amends the Efficiency Maine program to require the commission to consider conservation programs that reduce peak demand. It also directs the commission to develop a plan for using revenues from any increase in the Efficiency Maine assessment on transmission and distribution utilities. It directs the commission to consider using funds resulting from any increased assessment to increase the per-business incentive cap imposed on large businesses. The commission is required to submit its plan, together with any recommendations for increases in the assessment consistent with that plan and any suggested legislation to implement its recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by January 1, 2007. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation on this matter to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature; and
3. It requires the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security in the Executive Department to compile a report on home heating issues.

Public Law 2005, chapter 569 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2006.

LD 1969 **Resolve, To Evaluate the Public Safety Answering Points for the State of Maine** **ONTP**

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

LD 1969 proposed to establish the Task Force to Evaluate Public Safety Answering Points to review and evaluate whether the goal of between 16 and 24 public safety answering points, which is established by statute, is the best plan for the State in its overall E-9-1-1 plan.

LD 1970 **An Act To Amend the Charter of the Lisbon Water Department** **P & S 43
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERUBE NUTTING J		OTP-AM		H-779

LD 1970 proposed to amend the charter of the Lisbon Water Department to clarify the terms of the members of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-779) proposed to make a date change in the bill. Under the bill, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lisbon would fill vacancies in the Board of Water Commissioners of the Lisbon Water

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Department until June 30, 2007, and after that time the Town Council of the Town of Lisbon would fill such vacancies. The amendment proposed to change that date to June 30, 2006.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law, chapter 43 amends the charter of the Lisbon Water Department. It clarifies the terms of the members of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Private and Special Law, chapter 43 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 24, 2006.

LD 2018 **An Act To Allow Consolidation of the Winterport Sewerage District and the Winterport Water District To Create Incentives For Consumers To Pay Water Bills** **P & S 50 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KAELIN WESTON	OTP-AM	H-958

LD 2018 proposed to provide for the acquisition of the Winterport Water District by the Winterport Sewerage District.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-958) proposed to replace the bill but to achieve the main purposes of the bill. It proposed to provide for the acquisition by the Winterport Water District of the assets, liabilities and duties of the Winterport Sewerage District. It also proposed to repeal most of the current charter of the Winterport Water District and to grant the district the powers and duties of a standard water district and of a sanitary district. It also proposed to update certain remaining provisions of the Winterport Water District charter.

The amendment proposed to authorize the town council of the Town of Winterport, at the request of the Winterport Water District’s board of trustees (who are appointed by the town council), to appoint alternate trustees to serve in the absence of one or more trustees. The alternates would be barred from serving as officers of the district, but would be permitted, to the extent authorized by the board of trustees, to attend meetings and otherwise act on behalf of an absent trustee.

The amendment also proposed to authorize the Winterport Water District to disconnect water service for nonpayment of sewer service. This provision would be repealed 90 days after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. The Public Utilities Commission would be directed to monitor and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters on the district’s use of this authority and the committee would be authorized to report out a bill on this matter to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.