

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

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COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-218

SUMMARY

This bill proposed several changes to the existing mandatory residential building standards, including new language relating to energy conservation in state facilities and residential buildings funded by the Maine State Housing Authority, reenactment of fluorescent lighting efficiency standards that were repealed when the Office of Energy Resources was transferred to the Department of Economic and Community Development in 1989, increasing the minimum insulation requirements for ceilings and windows and enacts new minimum insulation standards for exterior doors. Several other amendments to the State's energy conservation building standards were proposed in the bill.

Committee amendment "A" (H-218) replaced the bill. The amendment prohibits, after January 1, 1992, the Bureau of Public Improvements, the Bureau of Purchases, the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Maine State Housing Authority from purchasing or installing any faucet, shower head, toilet or urinal that is not a "low-flow" or "water-saving" model. The Bureau of Public Improvements is required to define "low-flow" and "water-saving" by rule by January 1, 1992.

The amendment also requires the Bureau of Public Improvements to develop an energy efficiency incentive program for state facilities that allows a department or agency of State Government to retain a portion of the first-year energy costs saved by energy efficiency improvements undertaken by the department or agency. That portion of the savings not retained by the department or agency would be returned to the General Fund. The bureau must submit its proposed program to the Legislature by January 1, 1992.

The amendment also requires the Director of the Energy Conservation Division to establish an alternative procedure for complying with the residential energy standards that is based on an assessment of a building's overall thermal performance, rather than on prescriptive standards. The director must adopt such a "performance-based" compliance procedure by rule by January 1, 1992.

The amendment also makes several technical and clarifying changes to the residential energy standards, including clarifying the authority of the Director of the Energy Conservation Division to inspect buildings for compliance with the standards, restructuring the section pertaining to the energy standards to read more clearly and making several grammatical and technical corrections. The amendment clarifies that modular homes are included in the residential energy standards by correcting a drafting error enacted in P.L. 1987, c. 818. A cross-reference to modular homes outdated by the recodification of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30 is also corrected. The provision relating to modular homes is amended to limit the standards to modular homes installed in the State.