

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

**JULY 1997**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair*

*Sen. John J. Cleveland*

*Sen. Philip E. Harriman*

*Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair*

*Rep. Carol A. Kontos*

*Rep. Ronald E. Usher*

*Rep. Gary O'Neal*

*Rep. Patrick Colwell*

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*Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.*

*Rep. John W. Vedral*

**Staff:**

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**Maine State Legislature**

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. 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 handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically 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. 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](http://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*
- 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 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

**LD 1788****An Act to Require Notice to Telephone Subscribers of the Sale or Transfer of an Interexchange Carrier or a Change in Rates** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1788 proposes to require a provider of interexchange telephone services to notify customers 30 days before selling or transferring ownership or changing rates. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

**LD 1794****An Act to Create a Competitive Market for Electricity While Protecting Consumers and the Environment** **ONTP**

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

LD 1794 proposed to introduce by January 2000 competition in the supply of electricity to retail customers in Maine while preserving specific protections for customers in rural areas and for low-income customers, preserving policy goals of energy efficiency and reliance on renewable resources and protecting Maine's environment. The bill proposed to create a so-called standard offer service for customers who prefer not to pick an electricity supplier or are unable to do so.

The bill proposed to require Maine's electric utilities to sell off all generation assets, except ownership interests in the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company and independent power contracts.

The bill also proposed a series of changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A.

See LD 1804.

**LD 1798****An Act to Permit Electric Utilities to Restructure in Ways That Improve the Economy of the State** **ONTP**

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

LD 1798 proposed to restructure the electric industry. The major provisions of the bill are these:

1. Proposed to establish a competitive market for purchases and sales of electricity beginning no later than January 1, 2000;
2. Proposed to establish mechanisms to ensure universal service and to protect low-income customers;