

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Carol A. Kontos

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson, Chair

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Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere

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Staff:

Jon Clark, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and 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 and select 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. 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).

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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
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 September 18, 1999.

LD 659**An Act to Require Companies Responsible for Billing Electrical Services to Forward the Amount Collected within 3 Days**

ONTP

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

LD 659 proposed to require a person who provides competitive billing services related to electric service not provided by that person to forward to the person who provided the electric service, within three days of the receipt of payment from the customer, the amount collected from the customer for the electric service.

LD 661**An Act Regarding the Unbundling of Natural Gas Services**

PUBLIC 143

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY	OTP-AM	S-92

LD 661 proposed to require any entity that sells or attempts to sell natural gas supply service to retail customers in the State to register with the Public Utilities Commission. It also proposed to specify that an entity that is only active in the natural gas supply market, but does not provide other services associated with an integrated natural gas utility, is not considered a gas utility and thereby subject to commission regulation as a gas utility. The bill also proposed to direct the commission to consider the need to adopt rules governing the unbundling of natural gas services and to authorize their adoption as major substantive rules. The bill proposed to require that the commission consider the need for establishing by rule a process for determining default providers of natural gas service. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-92) proposed:

1. To modify the description of the type of information gas marketers must provide on request to the Public Utilities Commission to include copies of residential contracts for retail natural gas supply; the language would not limit the commission's authority, however, to require other information from gas marketers;
2. To make a clarification in the provision of the bill concerning confidentiality; and
3. To delete the requirement that the commission consider the need for establishing by rule a process for determining default providers of natural gas service.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 143 requires any entity that sells or attempts to sell natural gas supply service to retail customers in the State to register with the Public Utilities Commission. It also specifies that an entity that is only active in the natural gas supply market, but does not provide other services associated with an integrated natural gas utility, is not considered a gas utility and thereby subject to commission regulation as a gas utility. The bill also directs the commission to consider the need to adopt rules governing the unbundling of natural gas services and authorizes their adoption as major substantive rules.