

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:

Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair

Sen. Carol A. Kontos

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson, Chair

Rep. Patrick Colwell

Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere

Rep. Bruce S. Bryant

Rep. Monica McGlocklin

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Rep. Harry G. True

Rep. Richard H. Duncan

Rep. Richard W. Rosen

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature
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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.

4. Provide for electric utilities to arrange standard offer service in cases where the Public Utilities Commission determines there is a lack of sufficient bids; and
5. Make the rule consistent with other commission rules governing interactions between providers and electric utilities.

Chapter 37 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 1999.

LD 769

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 304: Standard of Conduct for Transmission and Distribution Utilities and Affiliated Competitive Electricity Providers, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission

**RESOLVE 36
EMERGENCY**

Reported by
DAVIDSON

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-329

LD 769 proposed approval of Chapter 304: Standard of Conduct for Transmission and Distribution Utilities and Affiliated Competitive Electricity Providers, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-329) proposed to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its rule, Chapter 304: Standard of Conduct for Transmission and Distribution Utilities and Affiliated Competitive Electricity Providers, provided it made certain changes to the rule.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 36 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its rule, Chapter 304: Standard of Conduct for Transmission and Distribution Utilities and Affiliated Competitive Electricity Providers, provided it:

1. Modifies the rule to remove references to the release of customer proprietary information; this issue is the subject of LD 1214; and
2. Modifies the rule to clarify that nothing in the rule prevents a distribution utility from entering into a special contract offering a special rate to a customer or group of customers pursuant to a rate flexibility program approved by the Public Utilities Commission under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3195, subsection 6.

See also LD 2154 for other issues related to standards of conduct for transmission and distribution utilities.

Chapter 36 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 1999.

LD 790

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 380: Energy Conservation Programs by Electric Transmission and Distribution Utilities, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission

**RESOLVE 42
EMERGENCY**

Reported by
DAVIDSON

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-400

LD 790 proposed approval of Chapter 380: Energy Conservation Programs by Electric Transmission and Distribution Utilities, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.