

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

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Rep. Richard W. Rosen

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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.

LD 1214**An Act Authorizing the Release of Information to a Competitive Electricity Provider****PUBLIC 237**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY D CAREY	OTP-AM	H-330

LD 1214 proposed to allow customers of an electricity provider to give approval for the release of their proprietary information to a competitive electricity provider by means other than written authorization.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-330) proposed to replace the bill. Under this amendment, a transmission and distribution utility would be prohibited from releasing customer-specific information to a licensed competitive electricity provider unless the provider produces sufficient evidence, as defined by the commission by routine technical rule, that the provider has obtained the customer's authorization. This amendment proposed to repeal a provision of law that prohibited large transmission and distribution utilities from releasing propriety customer information without prior written authorization of the customer.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 237 provides that a transmission and distribution utility may not release any customer-specific information to a licensed competitive electricity provider unless the provider produces sufficient evidence, as defined by the commission by routine technical rule, that the provider has obtained the customer's authorization. This amendment repeals a provision of law that prohibited large transmission and distribution utilities from releasing propriety customer information without prior written authorization of the customer.

LD 1219**An Act to Amend the Charter of the Mt. Blue Standard Water District****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAVERDIERE	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1219 proposed to amend the charter of the Mt. Blue Standard Water District to require that to qualify as a legal voter of the district a person must reside in a household to which the district's service is provided.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-197), which was the minority report of the committee, proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed that the following persons would be eligible to vote in elections held by the Mt. Blue Standard Water District:

1. All persons resident in the district eligible to vote in municipal elections; and
2. All persons not resident in the district who own property in the district who are customers of the district.