

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
Rep. William R. Savage
Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.
Rep. Harry G. True
Rep. Richard H. Duncan
Rep. Richard W. Rosen*

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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
ONT P.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OT P ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OT P 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.

1. Proposed to strike those portions of the bill granting the Public Advocate certain new authorities to compel utilities to provide information to the Public Advocate;
2. Proposed to strike that portion of the bill that designated six positions in the Office of the Public Advocate as major policy-influencing positions;
3. Proposed to add a provision establishing titles and salary ranges for six positions in the Office of the Public Advocate;
5. Proposed to correct the allocation section of the bill to reflect the actual costs of funding the expansion of the Office of the Public Advocate.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 259 adds three positions to the Office of the Public Advocate, increasing the Public Advocate's staff from six to nine positions. It also reclassifies the positions and increases the salary of the existing six employees of the Office of the Public Advocate and establishes their salary ranges in law. It also establishes in law the salary ranges of two of the three new positions.

LD 1430 An Act to Ensure the Protection of Ratepayers' Interests in the New ONTP **England Power Pool**

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

LD 1430 proposed to create two full-time positions at the Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of monitoring and participating in the New England Power Pool committee process and in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LD 1456 An Act to Establish the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation PUBLIC 513

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEAL	OTP-AM	H-617 S-424 MICHAUD

LD 1456 proposed to establish a Northern Maine Transmission Corporation to finance, permit, construct own and operate any transmission lines necessary to connect northern Maine's electric utilities with the transmission grid of the United States.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-617) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed the following:

1. To establish a Northern Maine Transmission Corporation as a special purpose, tax-exempt, body politic and body corporate, public instrumentality of the State and subsidiary of the Finance Authority of Maine;
2. To authorize the Northern Maine Transmission Corporation to finance, permit, construct own and operate any transmission lines necessary to connect northern Maine's electric utilities with the transmission grid of the United States;
3. To authorize the Finance Authority of Maine to issue up to \$35,000,000 in bonds, backed by the moral obligation of the State of Maine, to finance the construction of transmission lines necessary to connect northern Maine's electric utilities with the transmission grid of the United States;