

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

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MURPHY T LAFOUNTAIN	OTP	

LD 1496 proposed to amend the Charter of the Kennebunk Sewer District by amending the district's boundaries to make them identical to the boundaries of the Town of Kennebunk.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 11 amends the Charter of the Kennebunk Sewer District by amending the district's boundaries to make them identical to the boundaries of the Town of Kennebunk. This change is subject to approval in a local referendum.

Chapter 11 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 10, 1999.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAXL M KONTOS		

LD 1500 proposes to establish a trust fund to finance a state-wide low-income assistance program using corporate income taxes derived from the sale of electric utility generation assets. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session after being recommitted to committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-618) proposed the following changes to the bill:

1. To provide for a transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Low-income Electric Trust Fund equal to the amount of transfer taxes that will be deposited in the General Fund as a result of sales or transfers of generation assets required to be divested pursuant to the electric restructuring law;
2. To provide that the low-income program funded by the Low-income Electric Trust Fund would become active on March 1, 2002; until that date existing utility-administered programs would remain in place;
3. To direct consumer-owned electric utilities to develop and implement programs to provide assistance to low-income consumers between March 1, 2000 and March 1, 2002; and
4. To provide that the Low-income Electric Trust Fund be administered to provide for a fixed percentage withdrawal of not less than 4% of the total value of the fund;

House Amendment "A" (H-692) proposed to replace committee amendment "A" and the bill. It proposed to use corporate income taxes attributable to the gain on the sale or transfer of generation assets divested after May 21, 1999 (i.e., the sale or transfer of generation assets by Bangor Hydro-Electric and Maine Public Service) to fund weatherization, energy conservation and fuel assistance for persons of low-income.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-338) proposed to amend Committee Amendment "A" to reduce the amount of corporate income taxes attributable to the net gain on the sale or transfer of generation assets