

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

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.

required to be divested by electric utilities that are transferred to the Low-income Electric Consumer Trust Fund. Under this amendment, only taxes attributable to transfers on sales made after May 21, 1999 would be transferred to the fund.

Senate Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" (S-354) proposed to amend House Amendment "A" to specify that funds in the Maine Low-income Energy Assistance Fund may be used for appliance replacement but not for fuel assistance.

LD 1505 **An Act to Require Performance-based Restoration by Public Utilities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'GARA WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1505 proposed to require that, if a public utility elects to relay excavated pavement, the public ways must be properly restored and maintained following construction by public utilities. The bill proposed to require utilities to perform all restoration in a manner that ensures that the repaired area is restored to as good a condition as the area was in before excavation and to maintain the excavated area for the useful life of the street. The issues raised by this bill were dealt with in LD 1207, which was handled by the Transportation Committee.

LD 1532 **An Act Concerning Liens Held by the Freeport Sewer District** **P & S 14**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BULL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-210
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LD 1532 proposed to update administrative provisions of the Freeport Sewer District's lien authority. It also proposed to authorize the district, as part of its sewer lien procedure, to send affected parties a second notice of sewer liens and impending foreclosure before the date of forfeiture.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-210) proposed to make a technical change to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 14 updates the administrative provisions of the Freeport Sewer District's lien authority. It also authorizes the district, as part of its sewer lien procedure, to send affected parties a second notice of sewer liens and impending foreclosure before the date of forfeiture.

LD 1563 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities** **PUBLIC 227**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1563 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People With Disabilities. The bill proposed to establish

an annual assessment on telecommunications carriers to generate \$85,000 annually for the Telecommunications Equipment Fund.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 227 establishes an annual assessment on telecommunications carriers to generate \$85,000 annually for the Telecommunications Equipment Fund.

LD 1569

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Veazie Sewer District

P & S 17

Sponsor(s)
CAMPBELL

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-227

LD 1569 proposed to amend the charter of the Veazie Sewer District to provide compensation of \$500 per year for the chair of the board of trustees and \$400 per year for other trustees. It also proposed to remove language that sets a specific date for the annual meeting.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-227) proposed to redraft the bill for clarity and make the following substantive changes.

1. It proposed to permit the board of trustees of the Veazie Sewer District to set the salaries of the trustees provided that the chair of the board received no more than \$500 per year and the other trustees received no more than \$400 per year; and
2. It proposed to remove the requirement that the trustees establish in the district bylaws the time and place of the annual meeting; the trustees would be authorized, as in the bill, to establish the date of the annual meeting.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 17 permits the board of trustees of the Veazie Sewer District to set the salaries of the trustees provided that the chair of the board may not receive more than \$500 per year and the other trustees may not receive more than \$400 per year. It removes the requirement that the trustees establish in the district bylaws the time and place of the annual meeting; the trustees are authorized to establish the date of the annual meeting.

LD 1615

An Act to Repeal Registration Requirements of Cable Television Franchise Agreements and the Filing of Wage Rates and Benefits

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)
NUTTING J

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 1615 proposed to eliminate the requirements that cable television franchise agreements and determinations of wage rates and benefits by the Department of Labor be filed with the Secretary of State. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-109) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.