

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. Betty Lou Mitchell

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT COWGER	OTP-AM	S-224

LD 1929 proposed the following:

1. To establish a mediation program for resolving disputes concerning use of easements held by natural gas pipeline companies;
2. To establish that an easement or other property interest for the construction, maintenance or operation of a natural gas pipeline does not become effective until seven business days after the date of the contract granting the easement or other property interest and to permit the landowner to cancel the easement in the seven-day period; and
3. To permit landowners to negotiate an annual fee for the use of easements held by natural gas pipeline companies.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-224) proposed to remove from the bill those sections proposing a seven-day delay in the effective date of certain easements or interests in property related to the construction, maintenance and operation of a natural gas pipeline and the provision proposing to allow a landowner granting an easement to negotiate an annual fee for the use of that easement or interest.

The amendment proposed to clarify that the mediation process established in the bill applies to any natural gas pipeline work regardless of whether or not that work was performed by a state or federally regulated natural gas pipeline. The amendment proposed to limit the scope of the mediation to property damages and to clarify that participation in the mediation process is voluntary for all parties and may not be compelled by the mediator or any other person.

The amendment also proposed to make several technical corrections to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 346 establishes a mediation program for resolving disputes concerning property damages resulting from the use of easements held by natural gas pipeline companies.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENOIT GOOLEY	OTP-AM	S-148

LD 1977 proposed to create the Farmington Falls Standard Water District, to authorize the district to take the property and franchise of the Farmington Falls Water Company. The bill also proposed to repeal the Farmington Fall Water District, which was created by Private and Special Law 1981, chapter 86, but was never approved by referendum.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-148) proposed to make technical corrections to the bill.

Enacted law summary