

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

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Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere

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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>
SHIAH TREAT	OTP-AM	H-399

LD 2091 proposed to allow the Richmond Utilities District to charge the ratepayer when filing a lien a fee not to exceed the cost to the district for giving the notice and for filing and recording the certificate of lien.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-399) proposed to modify the Richmond Utilities District charter to allow the district to increase its debt limit through a district referendum in same the manner as standard water districts.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 23 allows the Richmond Utilities District to charge the ratepayer when filing a lien a fee not to exceed the cost to the district for giving the notice and for filing and recording the certificate of lien. It also modifies the Richmond Utilities District charter to allow the district to increase its debt limit through a district referendum in same the manner as standard water districts.

LD 2140 **An Act to Enhance the Economic Security of Low-income Households with Respect to Utility Service** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 2140 proposes to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to approve discount rates for low-income natural gas customers.

LD 2154 **An Act to Amend the Electric Industry Restructuring Laws** **PUBLIC 398**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-620

LD 2154, reported by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 316, section 12, proposed to implement certain recommendations of the Public Utilities Commission regarding electric industry restructuring.

Part A proposed to make changes to Title 35-A to conform it to the electric industry restructuring law;

Part B proposed to authorize international transmission contracts;

Part C proposed to modify the PUC's assessments on utilities to account for the changes in the electric utility industry;

Part D proposed to grant the PUC a 1-year extension to adopt rules on competitive billing and metering;

Part E proposed to exempt small utilities from retail competition; and