

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

JULY 2000

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
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Rep. Richard H. Duncan
Rep. Richard W. Rosen***

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COLWELL KONTOS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-856
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LD 2397 proposed to allow affiliates of transmission and distribution utilities to take an ownership interest in generation facilities on the premises of a customer if such facilities are for the sole use of the customers or their tenants or associates and not for retail sales of electricity.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-856) proposed to make the bill a resolve and replace the title to reflect the content of the amendment. This amendment proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission to undertake an examination of distributed generation and its effects on the electric industry and consumers. The commission would be directed to issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters not later than October 1, 2001. The committee would be authorized to report out legislation on distributed generation in response to the report of the commission.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 107 directs the Public Utilities Commission to undertake an examination of distributed generation and its effects on the electric industry and consumers. The commission is directed to issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters not later than October 1, 2001. The committee is authorized to report out legislation on distributed generation in response to the report of the commission.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIDSON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-831
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LD 2403 proposed to extend the start-up date for implementing metering and billing competition within Maine's electric industry and to limit such competition to customers using at least 500 kilowatts of distribution service in one hour in a year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-831) proposed to replace the bill and to accomplish the following:

1. Change the title to reflect the content of the amendment;
2. Remove the dates currently governing the establishment of competitive electric billing and metering services;
3. Provide that the Public Utilities Commission is authorized to provide for competition in the provision of electric billing and metering services through the adoption of major substantive rules;