

# 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***

***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:***

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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](http://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;

4. Require the commission to establish terms and conditions for such competition including which services are subject to competition and which customers will receive competitive services; and
5. Preserve those portions of current law governing consumer protections and the unbundling from transmission and distribution utility rates of the charges associated with any billing and metering services that are made subject to competition.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 601 removes the dates currently governing the establishment of competitive electric billing and metering services; authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to provide for competition in the provision of electric billing and metering services through the adoption of major substantive rules; and requires the commission to establish terms and conditions for such competition including which services are subject to competition and which customers will receive competitive services.

**LD 2409**

**An Act to Amend the Renewable Resources Requirement for Electricity Providers under the Electric Restructuring Laws**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOWNSEND TREAT	ONTP	

LD 2409 proposed that a hydroelectric dam not qualify for inclusion under the renewable resources requirements in the electric restructuring laws unless the dam has all necessary and applicable regulatory approvals for upstream and downstream fish passage, a federal license for a minimum of 30 years, and operational fish passage facilities.

**LD 2411**

**An Act to Allow Certain Public Utilities to Extend Their Service into Areas Serviced by Other Public Utilities**

**ONTP**

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

LD 2411 proposed to provide that, if a utility was serving a portion of a municipality on October 8, 1967, the Public Utilities Commission's approval is not required for the utility to extend service to other portions of the municipality.