

# 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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**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

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

H-1136 DAVIDSON

LD 2668, reported by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to joint order, proposed the following:

- 1. To require the State Planning Office to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy:
  - A. Annually on petroleum product inventories; and
  - B. On any significant heating oil supply inventory shortfalls that the office anticipates based on information available to it; and
- 2. To establish a heating oil crises response mechanism under which, in the event of sharp increases in heating oil prices, the Maine State Housing Authority would be required to estimate the funding needed to provide adequate fuel assistance to residents. The authority would be required to provide this information to the Legislature and to the Governor. The Governor would be directed to submit for legislative consideration emergency legislation to appropriate the needed funding and to work with the state Congressional Delegation and the governors of the northeastern states to petition the Federal Government to release sufficient funds to meet the anticipated need.

**House Amendment "A" (H-1136)** proposed to remove the language that directs the Governor to submit emergency legislation to appropriate the needed funding for a heating oil emergency management program and to work with the Maine Congressional Delegation and the governors of the northeastern states to petition the Federal Government to release sufficient funds to meet the anticipated needs of the program.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 758 requires the State Planning Office to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy as follows: annually on petroleum product inventories and at any time on any significant heating oil supply inventory shortfalls that the office anticipates based on information available to it. The law also establishes a heating oil crises response mechanism under which, in the event of sharp increases in heating oil prices, the Maine State Housing Authority is required to estimate the funding needed to provide adequate fuel assistance to residents. The authority is required to provide this information to the Legislature and to the Governor.

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2680, which was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 316, section 12, proposed to amend a provision of law governing certain qualifying facility contracts affected by electric industry restructuring. Under this bill, the Public Utilities Commission would be given authority, within certain parameters, to establish contract rates based on the type of contract and the factual context.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 730 amends a provision of law governing certain qualifying facility contracts affected by electric industry restructuring. Under this law, the Public Utilities Commission is given authority, within certain parameters, to establish contract rates based on the type of contract and the factual context.

Public Law 1999, chapter 730 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.

**LD 2689**

**An Act to Allow the St. Agatha Sanitary District to be Dissolved and Combined with the Town of St. Agatha**

**P & S 86  
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 2689 proposed to allow the St. Agatha Sanitary District to be dissolved and the Town of St. Agatha to take over the district's duties.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 86 allows the St. Agatha Sanitary District to be dissolved and the Town of St. Agatha to take over the district's duties.

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 86 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 2000, subject to approval in a district referendum.

**SP 709**

**JOINT ORDER - Relative to Establishing the Task Force to Study the E-911 System**

**ONTP**

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

Joint Order SP 709, proposed to establish a task force to study the E-911 system.