

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

August 2001

Members:

*Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Chair
Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat
Sen. David L. Carpenter*

*Rep. William R. Savage, Chair
Rep. Monica McGlocklin
Rep. Albion D. Goodwin*

Rep. Lawrence Bliss

Rep. Christopher G. L. Hall

Rep. Peter L. Rines

Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.

Rep. Richard H. Duncan

Rep. Royce W. Perkins

Rep. Richard A. Crabtree

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**120th Legislature
First Regular Session**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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*
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 276 exempts lenders and their affiliated telemarketing firms from the consumer solicitation sales law to the extent that they are selling credit services and that transaction requires an acceptance initiated by the consumer.

LD 620

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Gray Water District

P & S 11

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOSTER KILKELLY	OTP-AM	H-86

LD 620 proposed to clarify the election procedures of the Gray Water District.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-86) proposed to make clear that the terms of the current trustees of the Gray Water District are not affected by this bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 11 clarifies the election procedures of the Gray Water District and makes clear that the terms of the current trustees of the Gray Water District are not affected.

LD 637

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Portland Water District to Conform to Changes in the Municipal Election Date for the City of Portland

**P & S 7
EMERGENCY**

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

In November 2000, the City of Portland changed the date of its municipal elections from May to November. LD 637 proposed to make a conforming change in the charter of the Portland Water District with respect to trustees elected from the City of Portland.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 7 makes a change in the charter of the Portland Water District with respect to the date on which trustees are elected from the City of Portland in order to conform to the change in date of the City of Portland's municipal elections.

This law was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 10, 2001.

LD 646 **An Act to Establish the Maine Energy Advisory Council** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 646 proposes to establish the Maine Energy Advisory Council, which will advise and make recommendations to the State Planning Office concerning energy issues.

LD 662 **An Act to Remove Barriers to Providing Natural Gas Services** **PUBLIC 124**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA BERRY D	OTP-AM	S-64

Present law does not permit a gas utility authorized and serving customers in the State to establish service in or to any municipality within the State without the approval of the Public Utilities Commission even if no other gas utility is furnishing or is authorized to furnish gas service. LD 662 proposed to remove the approval requirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-64) proposed to replace the bill with new language to achieve the intent of the bill. This amendment proposed to provide that:

1. A gas utility that has received Public Utilities Commission approval to serve somewhere in the State is not required to seek further approval from the commission to serve elsewhere in the State except in towns in which another gas utility is actually providing similar service; and
2. The commission may by order limit a gas utility to a certain area of the State.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 124 provides that a gas utility that has received Public Utilities Commission approval to serve somewhere in the State is not required to seek further approval from the commission to serve elsewhere in the