

# 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*

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*Rep. Richard H. Duncan*

*Rep. Royce W. Perkins*

*Rep. Richard A. Crabtree*

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**Maine State Legislature**  
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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](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:

*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*

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

## Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

State except in towns in which another gas utility is actually providing similar service. The commission may by order limit a gas utility to a certain area of the State.

**LD 741**                      **An Act to Mitigate Volatile Energy Costs**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 741 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to use funds from the asset sale gain account to provide a subsidy to nonresidential electricity consumers.

**LD 808**                      **An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Service Territory of  
Kennebunk Light and Power District**                      **DIED IN  
CONCURRENCE**

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

LD 808 proposed to amend the laws governing the service territory of Kennebunk Light and Power District to include the entire Town of Kennebunk and to override those provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A that require the permission of the Public Utilities Commission for the extension of the district's service either by purchase of existing facilities or by construction of new facilities to portions of the Town of Kennebunk that it does not presently serve. The bill proposed to authorize the district to fund the cost of a lease or purchase of tangible assets through the use of a rate surcharge to be paid by its retail customers in the subject area.

**LD 830**                      **An Act to Designate the Town of Topsham Communications Center  
as a Public Safety Answering Point**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LESSARD	ONTP      MAJ	
SMALL	OTP-AM      MIN	

LD 830 proposed to designate the Topsham Communications Center in the Town of Topsham as a public safety answering point for the purposes of providing enhanced 9-1-1 service to certain communities within Sagadahoc County.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-103)** was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. This amendment proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.