

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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

Staff:

Jon Clark, Senior Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

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

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 19 amends the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District. The law also changes the lien procedures governing liens for unpaid assessments, supplemental assessments or rates to provide for 2 notices to the landowners prior to foreclosure on liens.

The law also provides that the district must hold its own election to fill trustee positions if the Town of Ogunquit does not hold an annual election, clarifies the terms of office of the trustees, provides that district officers are elected at the annual district meeting and increases the district's debt limit from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

LD 892

An Act to Alleviate Heating Prices

ONTP

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

LD 892 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposed to direct the Executive Department, State Planning Office to inventory wood used for heating and provide information on installing, purchasing and using wood stoves.

LD 904

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Corinna Water District

**P & S 13
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOBIN J DAVIS P	OTP-AM	H-99

LD 904 proposed to create the Corinna Standard Water District.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-99) proposed to replace the bill. This amendment proposed to modernize the charter of the Corinna Water District using the Standard Water District Enabling Act. The amendment proposed to preserve certain provisions of the existing charter:

1. The authority of the district to take water from any source in the Town of Corinna;
2. The district's authorization to incur debt up to \$1,000,000, though the district is also granted the authority of a standard water district to increase this debt limit through the use of a referendum process; and
3. Exemption from review by the Public Utilities Commission of the district's management and allocation of funds received from the Department of Environmental Protection, except on request by the department.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 13 modernizes the charter of the Corinna Water District using the Standard Water District Enabling Act. The amendment preserves certain provisions of the existing charter:

1. The authority of the district to take water from any source in the Town of Corinna;
2. The district's authorization to incur debt up to \$1,000,000, though the district is also granted the authority of a standard water district to increase this debt limit through the use of a referendum process; and
3. Exemption from review by the Public Utilities Commission of the district's management and allocation of funds received from the Department of Environmental Protection, except on request by the department.

This law was enacted as an emergency measure effective on May 8, 2001.

LD 910

An Act Concerning Private Line Extensions

PUBLIC 201

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY	OTP-AM MAJ	S-115
TRAHAN	ONTP MIN	

LD 910 proposed to establish standards for transmission and distribution utilities that charge customers for single-phase overhead line extensions. The standards would provide for amortization of the costs for up to 5 years and apportionment of costs among multiple users of the line. The bill also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules establishing standards for the payment of the costs associated with single-phase overhead line extensions provided by a transmission and distribution utility to a customer. These rules would be major substantive rules and would be required to be submitted for legislative review by January 1, 2002.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-115) is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. The amendment proposed to replace the bill and alter the title to more accurately reflect the content of the bill as amended. This amendment proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing line extensions. The rules must establish standards for construction of private line extensions, terms and conditions for the transference of private lines to transmission and distribution utilities and requirements for apportioning among users the costs of single-phase overhead line extensions. The commission would also be directed to examine issues related to establishing minimum qualifications for persons who construct private line extensions.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 201 directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing line extensions. The rules must establish standards for construction of private line extensions, terms and conditions for the transference of private lines to transmission and distribution utilities and requirements for apportioning among users the costs of single-phase overhead line extensions. The commission is also directed to examine issues related to establishing minimum qualifications for persons who construct private line extensions.