

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

Staff:

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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).

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

LD 1121 proposed to grant the Public Utilities Commission the authority to exempt a telephone utility or a group of telephone utilities from any provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A if the commission finds that granting the exemption will adequately maintain standards of safety, customer protection and the public interest. The commission would be required to adopt standards and procedures for granting exemptions by rule and to inform the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters of its activities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-165) proposed to replace the bill and accomplish the following:

1. To leave in place provisions of law that authorize the Public Utilities Commission to grant exemptions to telephone utilities from the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 307 and 310 and chapters 9 and 11 but modify the provisions to make clear that the commission, before granting exemptions, must find that granting the exemptions will not have a negative impact on competition;
2. To provide additional authority to the Public Utilities Commission to grant exemptions from Title 35-A, sections 304 and 504, provided similar findings are made; and
3. To require the commission to report annually to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy on its activities in granting exemptions to telephone utilities from provisions of law.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 137 accomplishes the following:

1. It leaves in place provisions of law that authorize the Public Utilities Commission to grant exemptions to telephone utilities from the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 307 and 310 and chapters 9 and 11 but modifies the provisions to make clear that the commission, before granting exemptions, must find that granting the exemptions will not have a negative impact on competition;
2. It provides additional authority to the Public Utilities Commission to grant exemptions from Title 35-A, sections 304 and 504, provided similar findings are made; and
3. It requires the commission to report annually to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy on its activities in granting exemptions to telephone utilities from provisions of law; and

LD 1139

An Act to Ensure Access to Energy Markets for Maine's Small Hydroelectric Facilities

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
EDMONDS

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1139 proposes to require transmission and distribution utilities to purchase power from hydroelectric energy facilities with a capacity of less than 5 megawatts at the average wholesale market clearing price for the period during which the electricity is metered.