

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 1467

**An Act to Facilitate the Implementation of the Enhanced 9-1-1
Emergency System**

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY D	OTP-AM	H-442 H-687 GOODWIN S-252 MARTIN

LD 1467 proposed the following.

1. To increase the telephone surcharge from 32¢ to 58¢ to fund the E-9-1-1 program;
2. To standardize the surcharge remittance process for all telecommunications providers;
3. To clarify that the Emergency Services Communication Bureau owns the E-9-1-1 databases;
4. To authorize the bureau to coordinate with telephone companies and municipalities for maintenance of the system following implementation;
5. To provide that Emergency Medical Dispatch, or EMD, is an essential part of the E-9-1-1 service to the caller;
6. To repeal the payment process utilized by phone companies following the surcharge sunset period; and
7. To provide the bureau authority to ensure that E-9-1-1 calls are answered by public safety answering points should circumstances require the bureau to act to provide public safety answering points coverage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-442) proposed:

1. To remove the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill;
2. To remove provisions of the bill requiring the Emergency Services Communications Bureau to establish emergency medical dispatch as a component of the statewide E-9-1-1 system;
3. To clarify the confidentiality of all E-9-1-1 databases, wherever located;
4. To remove the portion of the bill that authorizes the Emergency Services Communications Bureau to provide call answering coverage in areas of the State that have decided not to participate in the E-9-1-1 system;
5. To add a provision to the bill that provides that the bureau is not required to provide call answering coverage in counties or municipalities that choose not to participate in the E-9-1-1 system;
6. To establish the E-9-1-1 surcharge at 50¢ per month per line. The current surcharge is 32¢. The bill proposed 58¢;
7. To remove the portion of the bill that proposed to repeal Public Law 1999, chapter 651, section 4; and
8. To add an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Senate Amendment "C" (S-306) proposed to specify that the State Police may provide facilities or other assistance for the operation of public safety answering points.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-252) proposed to allow Hancock County and Aroostook County to retain any E-9-1-1 surcharge collected in those counties beyond whatever has been spent.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-292) proposed to provide that the 50¢ surcharge reverts back to 32¢ on June 30, 2002 unless affirmative action is taken by the Legislature to change the law.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-687) proposed to require the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy to conduct a State Government evaluation of the enhanced 9-1-1 emergency system in 2001.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-315) proposed to provide that the 50¢ surcharge reverts to 32¢ 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature. This amendment also proposed to reallocate review under the State Government Evaluation Act of the Emergency Services Communications Bureau within the Department of Public Safety from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters to that having jurisdiction over utilities matters.

LD 1538 **An Act to Promote Retail Electricity Competition** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1538 proposed to amend certain provisions of Maine's electric utility restructuring laws to:

1. Modify the surety bond requirements imposed on competitive electricity providers; and
2. Require that the Public Utilities Commission approve only those standard offers after July 1, 2001 that are at least one full year in duration and that provide a known and fixed price to customers to provide the full requirement energy and capacity needs of the customer group.

LD 1618 **An Act to Review Utility Easements on a Periodic Basis** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1618 proposed to require a transmission and distribution utility that owns transmission or distribution facilities located on an easement over property of another person to provide to the owner of the property notice of any change in the ownership of the facilities located on the easement and any modification of the facilities or use of the facilities that involves a permanent increase in the voltage carried over the facilities. It also proposed to require the utility at least once every 50 years and, for facilities constructed prior to the year 2001, at least once prior to January 1,