MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Of Maine
120th Legislature

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy

May 2002

Members:

Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr., 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
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Staff:
Jon Clark, Senior Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

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*
PASSED .... *Joint Order passed in both bodies*
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 1981   **An Act to Prohibit the Charging of Tolls for Phone Calls Made**   **ONTP**
                     Between Contiguous Communities

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MICHAUD ME	ONTP	
MARTIN		

LD 1981 proposed to prohibit a telephone utility from charging a toll-call rate for a telephone call made between contiguous communities. Similar issues relating to local calling areas were reviewed by the committee in the First Regular Session (see LD 33); also, the Public Utilities Commission is reviewing these issues in the context of its revision of its Basic Service Calling Area Rule, Chapter 205.

LD 1985   **An Act to Avoid Incompatible Employment of Water Utility**   **ONTP**
                     Employees

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SAVAGE W	ONTP	

LD 1985 proposed to establish a new process that water utilities would be required to follow in cases involving potential conflicts of interest in the hiring of contractors. It also proposed to establish criteria for the employment of municipal officers and their family members by a water utility. The bill also proposed to allow the Public Utilities Commission to grant a waiver of the employment criteria if it found that the water utility's hiring procedure was equitable for ratepayers and candidates for employment.

LD 1995   **Resolve, Regarding Participation in Regional Transmission**   **RESOLVE 81**
                     Organization   **EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GOODWIN	OTP-AM	H-838

LD 1995 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study of the feasibility of the State's transmission and distribution utilities' participation in a regional transmission organization that includes northern Maine and Canada. The resolve also proposed to require that the Public Utilities Commission require that any regional transmission organization joined by the State's transmission and distribution utilities have a governance structure that provides for voting participation of consumers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-838) proposed to add clarifying language to the section of the resolve directing the Public Utilities Commission to undertake a study. This amendment proposed to remove the section of the resolve relating to the governance structure of a regional transmission organization. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.