

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
Rep. Peter L. Rines
Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.
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
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 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.

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

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 81 requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study of the advantages and disadvantages of the State's transmission and distribution utilities' participation in a regional transmission organization that includes northern Maine and Canada.

Resolve 2001, chapter 81 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 14, 2002.

LD 2003

An Act to Prepare Residential Electricity Customers for Competitive Electricity Markets in Maine

**PUBLIC 528
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLISS EDMONDS	OTP-AM	H-819

LD 2003 proposed to advance by 2 years the deadline for the Public Utilities Commission investigation of the continued necessity of standard-offer service in the State's competitive electricity markets. The bill also proposed to specify certain matters that the commission must investigate with respect to the continuation of standard-offer service and proposed to require the commission to make recommendations to the Utilities and Energy Committee on appropriate changes in the laws governing standard-offer service.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-819) proposed to add language to the bill to clarify that the Public Utilities Commission is in no manner limited in its investigation of standard-offer issues to those described in the bill. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 528 advances by 2 years the deadline for the Public Utilities Commission investigation of the value and continued necessity of standard-offer service in the State's competitive electricity markets. The bill also specifies certain matters that the commission must investigate with respect to the continuation of standard-offer service and requires the commission to make recommendations to the Utilities and Energy Committee on appropriate changes in the laws governing standard-offer service.

Public Law 2001, chapter 528 was enacted as an emergency and took effect on March 12, 2002.

LD 2024

An Act to Improve the Safety Provided by the Underground Facilities Protection Law

**PUBLIC 577
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVAGE W	OTP-AM	H-895

LD 2024 proposed to revise the law governing the so-called dig-safe system. The revisions proposed to provide limited exemptions for cemeteries and shoulder grading; require operators to mark inactive facilities, affirmatively respond to the dig-safe system and locate facilities to the point of service transfer; require the system to implement