

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Christopher G. L. Hall, Chair
Sen. Lynn Bromley
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood*

*Rep. Lawrence Bliss, Chair
Rep. Herbert Adams
Rep. Albion D. Goodwin
Rep. Peter L. Rines*

*Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen
Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.
Rep. Philip A. Cressey, Jr.
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher
Rep. Stanley A. Moody
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 343

An Act To Reduce the Electric Bill of Persons Requiring Daily Use of Electric Oxygenators

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAIRCLOTH	ONTP MAJ	
HALL	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 343 proposed to allow a person who uses an electric oxygen pump for a minimum of 8 hours a day every day to apply to the Public Utilities Commission to direct that person's transmission and distribution utility and competitive electricity provider to remove from that person's bill the amount attributable to the cost of serving the electric oxygen pump.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-86) proposed to narrow the application of the bill by adding an income eligibility requirement. The amendment proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission to establish a program to provide assistance to any residential customer who for health reasons must use an electric oxygen pump and whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. Under the program, a customer who meets the eligibility requirements would be able to apply to have the cost of serving the electric oxygen pump removed from the customer's bill. The program would be funded by allocation from the Fund for a Healthy Maine. (Not adopted)

LD 352

An Act To Encourage Energy Efficiency and Security

PUBLIC 219

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HALL	OTP-AM	S-87
BERRY		

LD 352 proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission, in determining transmission and distribution utility rates or in establishing any rate-adjustment mechanism or in developing and implementing conservation programs, to encourage efficiency in electricity use, provide incentives for the development of new, energy-efficient business activity in the State and take into account the costs and benefits of energy efficiency and conservation to existing business activity in the State.

LD 352 also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to undertake an investigation of how to create incentives for transmission and distribution utilities to promote energy efficiency and construct and maintain adequate infrastructure. The bill proposed to direct the commission to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by December 1, 2003.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-87) proposed to replace the bill. This amendment proposed to:

1. Require the Public Utilities Commission, in adopting conservation programs, to seek to encourage efficiency in electricity use, provide incentives for the development of new, energy-efficient business activity in the State and take into account the costs and benefits of energy efficiency and conservation to existing business activity in the State; and
2. Require the Public Utilities Commission to undertake an investigation to identify rate designs, mechanisms or other means that provide incentives for transmission and distribution utilities to promote energy efficiency and that promote the security and robustness of the electric grid. The amendment proposed to direct the Public

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Utilities Commission to submit a report of the results of its investigation to the Utilities and Energy Committee by February 1, 2004.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 219:

1. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, in adopting conservation programs, to seek to encourage efficiency in electricity use, provide incentives for the development of new, energy-efficient business activity in the State and take into account the costs and benefits of energy efficiency and conservation to existing business activity in the State; and
2. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to undertake an investigation to identify rate designs, mechanisms or other means that provide incentives for transmission and distribution utilities to promote energy efficiency and that promote the security and robustness of the electric grid. The Commission is required to submit its report to the Utilities and Energy Committee by February 1, 2004.

LD 355 **An Act To Require That Residential Customers Be Given Contracts for Utility Line Extensions** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLISS	ONTP MAJ	
HALL	OTP MIN	

LD 355 proposed to require transmission and distribution utilities and private line extension contractors to provide residential customers with contracts for line extensions that include at least the names of the parties, location of the work, estimated work dates, contract price, payment method and general description of the work.

LD 371 **An Act To Require Review of Utility Rates Prior to Approval of Alternative Rate Plans** **PUBLIC 45**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLISS	OTP-AM	H-85
HALL		

LD 371 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a rate case ensuring the justness of rates before authorizing or reauthorizing a price cap plan for electric, natural gas or telephone utilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-85) proposed to limit application of this bill to natural gas and electric utilities and to allow the Public Utilities Commission to conduct rate reviews in a manner that limits costs to ratepayers.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 45 requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a rate review ensuring the justness of rates before authorizing or reauthorizing a price cap plan for a natural gas or a transmission and