

# 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*

**Staff:**

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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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 1495**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 311: Eligible Resource Portfolio Requirements Rule Amendment, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission**

**RESOLVE 22  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1495 proposed to approve Chapter 311: Eligible Resource Portfolio Requirements Rule Amendment, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Resolve 2003, chapter 22 approves Chapter 311: Eligible Resource Portfolio Requirements Rule Amendment, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Resolve 2003, chapter 22 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 15, 2003.

**LD 1594**

**An Act Repealing the Charter of the Brewer Water District**

**P & S 26**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-176
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LD 1594, required by Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 66, proposed to dissolve the Brewer Water District. All powers, property and obligations of the Brewer Water District have been transferred to the City of Brewer pursuant to Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 66. Section 3 of the bill proposed to establish 3 sources of supply for use by the City of Brewer that were mentioned in a 1909 Brewer Water District charter that failed to be approved in a referendum (Private and Special Law 1909, chapter 265).

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-176)**, which was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, proposed to make the following changes to the bill.

1. It proposed to make a technical change to clarify the extent of the repeal of the law creating the Brewer Water District.
2. It proposed to remove section 3 of the bill, which would have authorized the City of Brewer to take water from several ponds from which the former Brewer Water District did not have authority to take water.
3. It proposed to preserve a provision from the charter of the former Brewer Water District relating to the water quality of Hatcase Pond.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Private and Special 2003, chapter 26, as required by Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 66, dissolves the Brewer Water District. All powers, property and obligations of the Brewer Water District have been transferred to

## *Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy*

the City of Brewer pursuant to Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 66. The law preserves a provision from the charter of the former Brewer Water District relating to the water quality of Hatcase Pond.

**LD 1595**                      **An Act To Enhance Electric Utility Consumer Protections**                      **PUBLIC 412**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COLWELL HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-426
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LD 1595 proposed to require a transmission and distribution utility providing electricity to its customers to read and record on a monthly basis the reasonably accessible meters furnished to that utility's customers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-426)** proposed to replace the bill. This amendment proposed to require an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to adopt and ordinarily follow as a general operating policy a schedule of reading customer meters on a monthly basis. Any investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that proposed to adopt a different policy, such as bimonthly meter reading, would be required to receive prior approval of the commission.

### *Enacted Law Summary*

Public Law 2003, chapter 412 requires an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to adopt and ordinarily follow as a general operating policy a schedule of reading customer meters on a monthly basis. Any investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that plans to adopt a different policy, such as bimonthly meter reading, must receive prior approval of the commission.

**LD 1608**                      **An Act To Amend the Charter of the Baileyville Utilities District**                      **P & S 25  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERRY A		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-424
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The Baileyville Utilities District is currently empowered to operate only water and electric utilities within the Town of Baileyville. This bill proposed to empower the district to manage the town's sewer department, currently managed by an outside independent contractor. LD 1608 also proposed to allow the district to acquire the sewer system if the town and district determine that this arrangement would better serve the 2 entities and the residents.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-424)** proposed to remove portions of the bill, but proposed to preserve the portion that would permit the Baileyville Utilities District to contract with the Town of Baileyville for the management, oversight and billing related to the town's sewer department.

### *Enacted Law Summary*

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 28 permits the Baileyville Utilities District to contract with the Town of Baileyville for the management, oversight and billing related to the town's sewer department.

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 28 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 3, 2003.