

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and  
First Special Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Utilities and Energy*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Philip L. Bartlett II, Chair  
Sen. Scott W. Cowger  
Sen. Carol Weston*

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

*Rep. Christopher W. Babbidge  
Rep. John R. Brautigam  
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson  
Rep. Philip A. Curtis  
Rep. Stacey Allen Fitts  
Rep. Everett W. McLeod, Sr.*

**Staff:**

*Jon C. Clark, Senior Analyst*

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



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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 June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

## Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

### Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 23 amends a provision of law governing the salary range of division directors at the Public Utilities Commission: general counsel, director of finance, administrative director, director of technical analysis, and director of consumer assistance. It corrects the omission from this provision of the director of energy programs. It raises the salary range for all the positions.

### **LD 662**                      **An Act To Limit Increases in Telephone or Electric Service Rates**      **CARRIED OVER** **to a Maximum of 3% Annually**

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

LD 662 proposed to provide that rates set by the Public Utilities Commission for a telephone utility may not increase for any customer by more than 3% in any 12-month period. It also proposed to require the commission to ensure that the total of the regulated rate for transmission and distribution service plus any stranded costs charge plus the charge for standard-offer service does not increase for any customer by more than 3% in any 12-month period.

### **LD 711**                      **An Act To Improve the Energy Efficiency of Buildings To Be**                      **ONTP** **Owned or Occupied by the State**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDER	ONTP	

LD 711 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to adopt by routine technical rule an energy efficiency building code for use in the construction of all buildings built by or for the occupancy of the State, beginning with construction initiated on or after July 1, 2006.

### **LD 789**                      **An Act Pertaining to Internet Services**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SULLIVAN BLISS	ONTP	

LD 789 proposed to amend a Maine telecommunications policy relating to access to computer-based information services. It proposed to make it the policy of the State that affordable access to “high-speed Internet services and related information networks” be made available throughout the State. The issues raised by the bill relate to complex areas of telecommunications law that are currently in some flux; certain related issues are currently in litigation. A key matter of current interest relates to the Public Utilities Commission’s role in governing access by