

State Of Maine 122nd Legislature

First Regular Session and First Special Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

August 2005

<u>Members:</u> 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.

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Maine State Legislature



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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PAS	SAGE Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY	
INDEF PP	
ONTP	
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
	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
	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*.

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LD 1051 Resolve, Establishing a Study Commission To Examine Water District Fees Assessed for Fire Suppression

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
COURTNEY	ONTP	-
CAMPBELL		

LD 1051 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to establish a study commission to examine water district fees assessed for fire suppression. The membership of the study commission would include interested parties throughout the State. The study commission would be charged with examining whether water district fees assessed for fire suppression are equitable and the ramifications of altering those fees and whether the amounts charged to municipalities should be limited in some way. The commission would be given authority to report its findings to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature.

The committee by letter requested that the PUC, working with certain stakeholder groups, develop materials and educational seminars so that municipalities and water utilities better understand the methodology for the calculation public fire protection charges and the rationality behind that methodology.

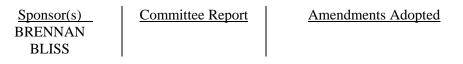
LD 1052 An Act To Require Municipalities To Institute Sewer Service ONTP Charges

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	ONTP	_
PINGREE		

LD 1052 proposed to require municipalities after January 1, 2007 to pay for a municipal sewer or disposal system only through user fees and to prohibit a town from paying any such costs from other municipal funds. Currently municipalities that provide sewer service have the option whether or not to institute user fees to pay for some or all sewer system costs.

LD 1065

An Act To Promote Economic Development and Sustainable CARRIED OVER Energy



LD 1065 proposed to amend the law concerning the eligible resource portfolio requirement for competitive electricity providers. The bill proposed to:

1. Modify eligibility for the current 30% eligible resource portfolio requirement and rename it a Tier 1 portfolio requirement. It proposed to modify the definition of renewable resources that qualify for this requirement by eliminating reference to federally-qualified (PURPA) small power facilities; qualifying eligibility for wind facilities by requiring at least 50% of the wind power be generated on land of tribes federally recognized after January 1, 1979; and adding landfill gas to the list of eligible resources;

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- 2. Add a Tier 2 requirement for which only a subset of Tier 1 renewable resources would qualify: hydroelectric, biomass and municipal solid waste facilities would be excluded from Tier 2 resources. It proposed to establish as an initial requirement that 1% of a competitive electricity provider's portfolio be met with Tier 2 resources; the percentage would increase 1/2 % each year to 5% in 2014;
- 3. Establish an alternative compliance payment of \$35/megawatt-hour for unmet Tier 2 requirements and provide that funds collected be used by the Public Utilities Commission to provide "per-megawatt-hour support payments" to resources eligible for Tier 2; and
- 4. Require the Public Utilities Commission to allow Tier 2 requirements to be met using renewable credits if it finds a reliable system of credit trading exists.

The committee, by letter, requested that a stakeholder group be formed to examine mechanisms to achieve the goals of this legislation.

This bill relates to the same matter as LD 1434.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1081Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety and the PublicONTPUtilities Commission To Review the E-9-1-1 System

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SEAVEY	ONTP	_
HOBBINS		

LD 1081 proposed to direct the Department of Public Safety and the Public Utilities Commission to develop a proposal to improve the efficiency of the E-9-1-1 system and to submit their proposal and any implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1098 Resolve, To Establish Energy Standards for Residential Rental RESOLVE 109 Properties

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EDER	OTP-AM	H-487
STRIMLING		

LD 1098 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to study energy standards for existing and new construction of residential rental properties and report to Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 1, 2006. The bill also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to propose energy efficiency standards for residential rental properties that are occupied year-round: the standards would be required to include certain elements specified in the bill; the standards would require existing residential rental properties that do not meet the standards to meet them by January 1, 2010 or within 90 days of sale, whichever occurred first; and the