

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

July 2006

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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/billsumm.htm).

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
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 (Pocket Veto).....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 1065

An Act To Promote Economic Development and Sustainable Energy

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN BLISS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1065, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to amend the eligible resources portfolio requirement as follows: by modifying the list of resources which qualify under the current portfolio requirement and defining the requirement as the “Tier 1” requirement; by adding a “Tier 2” requirement for which a subset of Tier-1-eligible resources would qualify; and by establishing an alternative compliance mechanism. The bill proposed to permit Tier 2 portfolio requirements to be met using renewable credits.

The Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, by letter dated June 3, 2005, requested that a stakeholder group be formed to examine mechanisms to achieve the goals of this bill. The Renewable Resources Stakeholder Group was formed, met during the interim and issued a report to the committee in January 2006. After receiving the report, the committee voted Ought-Not-To-Pass on LD 1065 and planned to develop a committee bill relating to renewable resources. The committee developed proposals for a committee bill and held a hearing on these proposals but in the end decided not to report out a committee bill. The committee addressed issues related to renewable resources in the context of the Governor’s energy bill, LD 2041.

LD 1347

Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Amend Its Rules Governing Net Energy Billing

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINKHAM		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1347, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules governing net energy billing to provide that a renewable facility must be located in the service area of a utility and to eliminate the requirement that the renewable facility be located on or in the vicinity of the customer's premises. This bill also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules to require a utility to provide net energy billing to a customer based on all accounts in that customer's name.

LD 1377

An Act Regarding Municipally Owned Street Lighting

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODCOCK		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1377, which was carried forward from the First Regular Session, proposed to:

1. Allow a municipality to place municipally owned streetlights on utility-owned poles;
2. Allow a municipality to purchase utility-owned streetlights; and