

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.*

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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, 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

LD 1375

An Act To Improve Cooperative Energy Purchasing for Schools, Towns and Nonprofits

PUBLIC 190

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STRIMLING		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1375 proposed to expand the authority of the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) to aggregate government units (counties, municipalities, SADs, community school districts, and quasi-municipal entities such as water and sewer districts) and nonprofits to purchase in bulk petroleum products, fuel oil and natural gas. Under current law, the MMBB can provide this aggregation service with respect to the purchase of electricity only. Under other law, the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority (MHHEFA) has authority to make similar bulk purchases on behalf of non-profit healthcare and higher education facilities and the University of Maine System.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 190 expands the authority of the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) to aggregate government units (counties, municipalities, SADs and community school districts, and quasi-municipal entities such as water and sewer districts) and nonprofits to purchase in bulk petroleum products, fuel oil and natural gas.

LD 1377

An Act Regarding Municipally Owned Street Lighting

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODCOCK		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1377 proposed to:

1. Allow a municipality to acquire existing transmission and distribution utility-owned streetlights and compensate the utility for the acquisition;
2. Provide that a municipality may purchase energy for street lighting owned or leased by the municipality;
3. Allow a municipality to use the space on poles previously used by the transmission and distribution utility for its lighting equipment; and
4. Set limits on standards a transmission and distribution utility may apply to municipal lighting equipment.

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

LD 1379

An Act To Amend the Maine Wind Energy Act

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STRIMLING FLETCHER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-365 BARTLETT
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