

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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*

**LD 1591**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 920: Maine Model Building Energy Code, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission**

**RESOLVE 88  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	H-510
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1591 proposed to provide legislative authorization for Chapter 920: Maine Model Building Energy Code, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-510)**, which was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, proposed to authorize final adoption of the rule, provided certain changes to the rule were made. The required changes include

1. Technical changes to clarify the model code standards;
2. The addition of exemptions for modular housing, owner-built homes, and log homes; and
3. Changes to ensure the application of the model code and its relation to existing mandatory standards are consistent with statute.

The amendment also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to absorb any costs associated with the implementation of the rule.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-511)**, which was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, proposed not to authorize final adoption of the rule.

This bill relates to the energy code issues in LD 1685.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 2005, chapter 88 authorizes adoption of Chapter 920: Maine Model Building Energy Code, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission provided certain changes to rule are made. The required changes include technical changes to clarify the model code standards; the addition of exemptions for modular housing, owner-built homes, and log homes; and changes to ensure the application of the model code and its relation to existing mandatory standards are consistent with statute. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to absorb any costs associated with the implementation of the rule.

Resolve 2005, chapter 88 was enacted as an emergency and took effect on June 3, 2005.