

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
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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 1610

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 306: Uniform Information Disclosure and Informational Filing Requirements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission

**RESOLVE 57
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 1610 proposed to authorize the portions of Chapter 306: Uniform Information Disclosure and Informational Filing Requirements that constitute a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 57 authorizes final adoption of that portion of Chapter 306: Uniform Information Disclosure and Informational Filing Requirements, that constitutes a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Resolve 2005, chapter 57 was passed as an emergency measure effective May 26, 2005.

LD 1612

Resolve, To Ensure Proper Handling by the E-9-1-1 System of Calls Made by Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard-of-hearing or Speech-impaired

RESOLVE 63

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS		OTP-AM		S-228

LD 1612 proposed to require that the Emergency Services Communication Bureau:

1. Ensure that all public safety answering points accept calls generated from automated emergency response telephones;
2. Ensure that all dispatchers at public safety answering points are trained on telecommunications devices for the deaf and voice carry-over, hearing carry-over and captioned telephone equipment as well as any newly developed related equipment;
3. Conduct monthly, unannounced call tests for every public safety answering point to test call and equipment capability and to report the test results to the E-9-1-1 Council and the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Division of Deafness; and
4. Ensure that any change to the E-9-1-1 system that requires new equipment is compatible with telecommunications devices for the deaf and voice carry-over, hearing carry-over and captioned telephone equipment.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-228) proposed to change the bill into a resolve. The amendment proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to convene a stakeholders group, including representatives of dispatch centers that handle E-9-1-1 calls and the Maine Center on Deafness,