

# 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.*

**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

6. Add an appropriations and allocations section.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2005, chapter 336:

1. Establishes a program for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals with incomes less than 135% of the federal poverty level to provide a discount to help offset the costs of owning a wireless communications device or 2-way pager that is used to receive state or federal emergency notifications;
2. Provides funding for the program by allowing transfers of funds from the state universal service fund to the Communications Equipment Fund for exclusive use of the program;
3. Removes a provision currently prohibiting the Public Utilities Commission from requiring contributions to the state universal service fund in order to cover amounts currently authorized to be transferred from that fund to the Communications Equipment Fund; and
4. Directs the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, to make recommendations prior to January 31, 2008 on whether the amount of funding authorized to be transferred from the universal service fund to the discount program is appropriate and sufficient and whether adjustments should be made to the authorized amount.

**LD 1658**

**An Act To Expand the Powers of the Stonington Sanitary District**

**P & S 24**

Sponsor(s)  
PINGREE  
DAMON

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-561

LD 1658 proposed to alter the powers, territory and trustee qualifications of the Stonington Sanitary District. The district was created pursuant to the sanitary district enabling law. The bill proposed to expand the district's territory to include the entire Town of Stonington; require that all trustees reside within the district and that 4 of the trustees reside in households that use the district's services; and authorize the district to provide septic services to entities not connected to the district's facilities. The bill proposed to make these changes subject to local referendum approval.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)** proposed to strike the emergency preamble and emergency clause and to provide that all trustees reside within the district and that 4 of the trustees reside in households connected to the district's facilities.

### *Enacted law summary*

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 24 expands the territory and powers and adds new residency requirements for the trustees of the Stonington Sanitary District. The new powers granted to the district, which was established pursuant to the Sanitary District Enabling law and not by private and special law charter, are the authority to implement seasonal rates and to provide septic services to entities not connected to the district's facilities.

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 24 is subject to approval by district referendum.