

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*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Utilities and Energy*

July 2006

Staff:

*Lucia A. Nixon, Legislative Analyst
Jon C. Clark, Deputy Director*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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.*

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

3. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters before January 1, 2008 the commission's assessment of the effectiveness of the energy disclosure statement in meeting the purposes of the law.

LD 2078

An Act To Establish the Island Falls Water District

P & S 49

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

LD 2078 proposed to establish the Island Falls Water District.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 49 establishes the Island Falls Water District, subject to voter approval in a referendum held within the district.

LD 2080

An Act To Accelerate Private Investment in Maine's Wireless and Broadband Infrastructure

PUBLIC 665

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE BARTLETT	OTP-AM	H-1018

LD 2080 proposed the following:

1. To establish the Advanced Technology Investment Authority governed by a 5-member board, including the Chief Information Officer of the State, the chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission and 3 other members;
2. To direct the authority to collect information concerning communications services in the State, assess the availability and need for services in unserved and underserved areas, identify and secure federal and other funding sources for broadband and wireless deployment and undertake projects to provide increased access to broadband and wireless communications services in unserved and underserved areas of the State;
3. To authorize the authority to up to expend up to \$500,000 in previously collected but unallocated funds of the Maine universal service fund;
4. To establish the Advisory Council on Advanced Technology Investment to advise the authority on technical, policy, financial and economic issues and to perform limited functions assigned to it by the authority; and
5. To allow a reimbursement for taxes paid on the purchase of machinery and equipment to develop an advanced communications technology infrastructure in a qualifying ConnectME zones designated by the authority.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1018) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to retain the substance of the bill but to make the following changes: