

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND
ENERGY**

July 2007

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STAFF:

LUCIA A. NIXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report).....	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.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

**LD 352 An Act To Provide an Appeal Process Regarding Rate Increases of
Certain Quasi-municipal Districts and Corporations ONTP**

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

This bill provides a process for consumers to appeal a water or sewer rate increase adopted by a quasi-municipal corporation or district that services a single municipality. Specifically, the bill provides the opportunity for ratepayers to appeal the rate increase to the municipal officers of the municipality upon the written petition of 10 ratepayers. The bill also provides the opportunity for ratepayers to appeal the rate increase through a referendum if the municipal officers uphold the rate increase.

LD 369 An Act To Require High-speed Internet Access for All Maine Residents ONTP

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

This bill requires telephone utilities operating in Maine to provide high-speed Internet access to any Maine resident who requests it, except for residents of unorganized territories.

**LD 393 Resolve, Establishing a Commission To Develop Methods for the State
To Promote the Generation of Electrical Power in an Environmentally
Sound Manner and Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

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

This resolve establishes the Commission to Develop Methods for the State to Promote the Generation of Electrical Power in an Environmentally Sound Manner and Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports. The commission consists of 6 Legislators and 3 members with expertise in the generation of electricity. The resolve requires the commission to meet at least twice and report its findings, recommendations and any implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and the Legislative Council no later than January 4, 2008. The commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-150)

This amendment (not adopted) incorporates a fiscal note and is the minority report of the committee.

**LD 398 An Act To Require Transmission Lines To Be Placed Underground near
Certain Facilities CARRIED OVER**

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