

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
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

MEMBERS:

SEN. PHILIP L. BARTLETT, II, CHAIR
SEN. BARRY J. HOBBS
SEN. DOUGLAS M. SMITH

REP. LAWRENCE BLISS, CHAIR
REP. HERBERT ADAMS
REP. PETER L. RINES
REP. RICHARD D. BLANCHARD
REP. SETH A. BERRY
REP. JON HINCK
REP. KENNETH C. FLETCHER
REP. PHILIP A. CURTIS
REP. STACEY ALLEN FITTS
REP. MICHAEL THIBODEAU

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-79)

This amendment authorizes final adoption of ConnectME Authority, Chapter 101, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Governor's Office, as long as certain changes to the rule are made to clarify the definition of broadband service provider, to limit the requirement imposed on mobile communications service providers to file mapping and service description information to those mobile communications service providers contributing to the ConnectME Fund and to amend the section of the rule regarding applications for funding from the ConnectME Authority to specify requirements for the content of the application and the application evaluation process to be used by the authority.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 27 authorizes final adoption of ConnectME Authority, Chapter 101, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Governor's Office, as long as certain changes to the rule are made to clarify the definition of broadband service provider, to limit the requirement imposed on mobile communications service providers to file mapping and service description information to those mobile communications service providers contributing to the ConnectME Fund and to amend the section of the rule regarding applications for funding from the ConnectME Authority to specify requirements for the content of the application and the application evaluation process to be used by the authority.

Resolve 2007, chapter 27 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 16, 2007.

LD 795 An Act Regarding the Solar Energy Rebate Program

PUBLIC 158

Sponsor(s)

BENOIT

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

S-67

This bill extends the Public Utilities Commission's solar energy rebate program for an additional 2 years, changing the repeal date from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2010.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-67)

This amendment adds a provision to the bill to require that in order to qualify for a rebate for a solar photovoltaic system under the Public Utilities Commission's solar energy rebate program, the homeowner or tenant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission that an energy audit of the property has been completed.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 158 extends the Public Utilities Commission's solar energy rebate program for an additional 2 years, changing the repeal date from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2010. The law also requires that in order to qualify for a rebate for a solar photovoltaic system under the program, a homeowner or tenant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission that an energy audit of the property has been completed.

LD 813 An Act To Provide an Energy Allowance to At-home Patients Using Ventilators

PUBLIC 97

Sponsor(s)

BROWNE

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-89

This bill adds ventilators to the equitable-treatment program that currently covers low-income electricity consumers who for health reasons need an oxygen pump for at least 8 hours each day.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Committee Amendment "A" (H-89)

This amendment adds a provision to the bill to require the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on the low-income assistance programs for residential electricity consumers and the equitable-treatment program for low-income program participants who require an oxygen pump or ventilator for at least 8 hours each day. The amendment also requires the commission to examine medical devices that may be appropriate for inclusion in the equitable-treatment program and report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than January 15, 2008.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 97 adds coverage for persons who need a ventilator at least 8 hours a day to the equitable-treatment program for low-income electricity consumers that currently covers those who for health reasons need an oxygen pump for at least 8 hour each day. This law requires the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on the low-income assistance programs for residential electricity consumers and the equitable-treatment program for low-income program participants who require an oxygen pump or ventilator for at least 8 hours each day. The law also requires the commission to examine medical devices that may be appropriate for inclusion in the equitable-treatment program and report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than January 15, 2008.

LD 878 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Harrison Water District

P & S 4
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)

SYKES

Committee Report

OTP

Amendments Adopted

The bill amends the charter of the Harrison Water District to clarify the territorial limits of the district by changing references to reflect the correct names or route numbers of roads. The bill also amends the charter to change how a vacancy on the Harrison Water District board of trustees that leaves an unexpired term is filled from having to hold a special election to having the board of trustees appoint a person and to change the compensation paid to a trustee from \$200 a year to a maximum of \$600 a year. This bill also amends the charter to specify that rates must be established in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6105.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 4 amends the charter of the Harrison Water District to clarify the territorial limits of the district by changing references to reflect the correct names or route numbers of roads. The law amends the charter to change how a vacancy on the Harrison Water District board of trustees that leaves an unexpired term is filled from having to hold a special election to having the board of trustees appoint a person and to change the compensation paid to a trustee from \$200 a year to a maximum of \$600 a year. This law also amends the charter to specify that rates must be established in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6105.

Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 4 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2007.