

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND
ENERGY**

July 2009

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH 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 124th Maine Legislature.

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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is September 12, 2009. 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

Under the current charter of the Athens Standard Water District, a trustee of the district must be a taxpayer of the Town of Athens and a ratepayer of the district. Under this bill, a trustee of the district must be a taxpayer of the Town of Athens or a ratepayer of the district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 1 changes the eligibility requirements for trustees of the Athens Standard Water District. Under this law, a trustee must be a taxpayer of the Town of Athens or a ratepayer of the district.

LD 146 An Act To Require Telephone Directories To Include Cellular Telephone Numbers for Businesses

ONTP

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

This bill requires telephone directories published by telephone utilities to include, at the request of a business customer, the cellular telephone number for the business.

LD 147 An Act To Facilitate the Protection of Electric Utility Consumer Interests in Public Utility Commission Cases Involving the Construction, Rebuilding or Relocating of Transmission Lines

PUBLIC 26

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK HOBBINS	OTP-AM	H-23

This bill provides the Office of the Public Advocate with authority, similar to existing authority of the Public Utilities Commission, to receive a filing fee from the applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. While the filing fee for the Public Utilities Commission is equal to either 2/100 of 1 percent or 4/100 of 1 percent of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line, the bill provides a filing fee for the Public Advocate equal to 1/100 of 1 percent or 2/100 of 1 percent of the estimated cost. The bill allows the Office of the Public Advocate to assess a filing fee on an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity who is not otherwise subject to an assessment to support the work of the Office of the Public Advocate.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-23)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It conditions the payment of a filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate upon the payment of a filing fee to the Public Utilities Commission.
2. It sets the amount of the filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate at 1/100 of 1 percent of the estimated project cost in all cases.
3. It clarifies the purposes for the expenditures of the filing fee by the Office of the Public Advocate to include public outreach.
4. It requires the Office of the Public Advocate to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by January 15, 2012 regarding its experience with the collection and expenditure of filing fees.

5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 26 provides the Office of the Public Advocate with authority similar to that of the Public Utilities Commission to receive a filing fee from an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. This law sets the amount of the filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate at 1/100 of 1 percent of the estimated project cost and conditions the payment of a filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate upon the payment of a filing fee to the Public Utilities Commission. It specifies the purposes for the expenditures of the filing fee by the Office of the Public Advocate to include representing the interests of consumers in the proceeding before the commission and conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. This law requires the Office of the Public Advocate to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by January 15, 2012 regarding its experience with the collection and expenditure of filing fees.

LD 200 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Caribou Utilities District

P & S 8

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDGECOMB	OTP-AM	H-34

This bill amends several provisions in the charter of the Caribou Utilities District, including the provisions regarding eminent domain, trustee compensation, trustee retirement eligibility, the acquisition of the Caribou Water Works Corporation, the authority to borrow and issue bonds, the determination of rates, liens for payment of rates and sewer connections and extensions.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-34)

This amendment makes a series of technical changes to the bill to provide cross-references to relevant provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, with respect to water functions of the district, and to relevant provisions in Title 38, with respect to sewer functions of the district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 8 amends several provisions in the charter of the Caribou Utilities District, including the provisions regarding eminent domain, trustee compensation, trustee retirement eligibility, the acquisition of the Caribou Water Works Corporation, the authority to borrow and issue bonds, the determination of rates, liens for payment of rates and sewer connections and extensions.

LD 220 An Act To Increase the Availability of Solar and Wind Power

**PUBLIC 88
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BARTLETT	OTP-AM	S-90