

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
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

STAFF:

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. BARRY J. HOBBS, CHAIR
SEN. PETER B. BOWMAN
SEN. ROGER L. SHERMAN

REP. JON HINCK, CHAIR
REP. HERBERT C. ADAMS
REP. RICHARD D. BLANCHARD
REP. STACY T. DOSTIE
REP. SEAN FLAHERTY
REP. DAVID A. VAN WIE
REP. JOSEPH ANDREW WAGNER
REP. KENNETH C. FLETCHER
REP. STACEY ALLEN FITTS
REP. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

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

LD 418 An Act To Facilitate the Development of Ocean Wind Power

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLARK H SULLIVAN	ONTP	

This bill includes an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Executive Department, State Planning Office in fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to provide funds to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to organize meetings of marine stakeholders along the coast of the State regarding the development of ocean wind energy.

LD 543 An Act Concerning the Allocation of Power Generated by GNE, LLC

Carried Over

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLARK H JACKSON		

This bill requires electricity generated by GNE, LLC hydropower facilities to be first allocated to the paper production facilities located in Millinocket and East Millinocket.

LD 543 was carried over to any special or regular session of the 124th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order, H.P. 1053.

LD 555 An Act To Promote Public Safety Answering Point Efficiency

PUBLIC 219

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FLETCHER MCCORMICK	OTP-AM	H-254

This bill requires the E-9-1-1 Council to assist the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau in resolving service-related complaints regarding the E-9-1-1 system. It requires the bureau to include in its annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy information regarding the performance of each of the public safety answering points during the reporting period. The bill directs the bureau to prepare and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy regarding the optimum configuration of public safety answering points in the State and the benefits and consequences of expanding the statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge to fund all E-9-1-1 system costs. The bill authorizes the committee to submit legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-254)

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It adds a provision to require the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau, prior to implementing a reduction in the number of public safety answering points, to make a finding regarding the need

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

for the reduction based on an evaluation of the costs and benefits of the reduction, taking into account impacts on ratepayers, each of the affected municipalities and the State.

2. It amends the provision of the bill that requires the bureau to prepare and submit a report regarding public safety answering points and the E-9-1-1 system. It clarifies the issues to be taken into account when reporting on the optimum configuration of public safety answering points. It adds to the report an assessment of how to implement and regulate the optimum configuration, including the regulation of changes to public safety answering point locations initiated by municipalities, taking into consideration the cost implications for municipalities and the State.
3. It adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 219 amends the laws governing the E-9-1-1 system as follows.

1. It requires the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau, prior to implementing a reduction in the number of public safety answering points, to make a finding regarding the need for the reduction based on an evaluation of the costs and benefits of the reduction, taking into account impacts on ratepayers, each of the affected municipalities and the State.
2. It requires the E-9-1-1 Council to assist the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau (ESCB) in resolving service-related complaints regarding the E-9-1-1 system.
3. It requires the ESCB to include in its annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy information regarding the performance of each of the public safety answering points during the reporting period.
4. It directs the ESCB to prepare and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy regarding the optimum configuration of public safety answering points in the State and the benefits and consequences of expanding the statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge to fund all E-9-1-1 system costs. The report must also include an assessment of how to implement and regulate the optimum configuration, including the regulation of changes to public safety answering point locations initiated by municipalities. The bill authorizes the committee to submit legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

**LD 596 An Act To Allow Electricity Customers Who Operate Generating
Facilities To Be Paid in Cash for Excess Net Energy Produced**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J R PERRY J	ONTP	

This bill requires transmission and distribution utilities to compensate a customer that generates electricity from renewable resources for any excess electricity generated by the customer beyond the customer's actual electricity usage. It requires the compensation to be in the form of either a cash payment or kilowatt-hour credits that do not expire for 24 months. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt routine technical rules to implement these requirements.