

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

LD 597

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Public Safety Answering Points

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to establish requirements that must be met prior to any consolidation or reconfiguration of public safety answering points. Under the bill, prior to the consolidation or reconfiguration of any public safety answering points:

1. A study must be conducted and submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters. The report must include an analysis of the costs and benefits of the proposed configuration of public safety answering points, including but not limited to an analysis of:
 - A. The anticipated total system costs, including but not limited to maintenance, training and operating expenses;
 - B. The impact on direct dispatch of emergency services, transfer routing and relay routing; and
 - C. The specific benefits and costs to individual affected municipalities and communities; and
2. Each municipality or community that is affected by the proposed consolidation or reconfiguration of public safety answering points must be afforded the opportunity to vote to accept or reject the proposed consolidation or reconfiguration.

LD 608

An Act To Protect Electricity Consumers in Northern Maine

PUBLIC 285

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN	OTP-AM	S-50

This bill prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from issuing a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a transmission line that has the effect of eliminating the independent system administrator for northern Maine or eliminating or modifying the scope of responsibilities of the independent system administrator for northern Maine unless the certificate is subject to a requirement for full compensation for an adverse effect on customer costs. The bill requires that the compensation be paid to affected customers through a rebate or reduction in rates charged by transmission and distribution utilities serving the area that is administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine for a period of not less than 10 years.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-50)

This amendment makes several changes to the bill to specify that the compensation to be provided to affected ratepayers: (1) is specifically for net adverse effects on ratepayers, rather than adverse effects; (2) may be provided through an appropriate compensation mechanism other than a rebate or rate reduction; and (3) must be for the benefit of affected ratepayers in the area covered by the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator. Additionally, the amendment limits the period over which the compensation is calculated and provided to affected ratepayers to a period of not more than 10 years.