

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**

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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

This bill makes two changes to this provision of law regarding the determination of a cellular or wireless service customer's place of residence. For post-paid customers, it specifies that the customer's place of primary use, rather than place of residence, must be determined by the sourcing rules in Title 36, section 2556. For prepaid wireless service customers, it specifies that the customer's nexus to Maine must be determined by the sourcing rules in Title 36, section 2556, and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission by rule to establish additional criteria to determine nexus, including the assignment of prepaid wireless service to a telephone number within Maine's area code.

The bill modifies the law relating to the point of sale collection method for the surcharge on pre-paid wireless service to authorize the collection of the surcharge from a "purchaser" in addition to from a "customer."

This bill also modifies the law relating to the average revenue per user, or ARPU, collection method for the surcharge on pre-paid wireless service. Specifically it amends the formula for determining the total surcharge that is collected indirectly from prepaid wireless telephone customers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-202)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to:

1. Form and participate in a stakeholder group to design a method of collecting an E-9-1-1 surcharge on prepaid wireless telecommunications service that is comprehensive, convenient and least burdensome, taking into account the perspectives of prepaid wireless telecommunications service providers, retailers and end users; and
2. Develop recommendations regarding the best method of protecting the integrity of the E-9-1-1 fund under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2927 and ensuring access to federal grant funds related to the E-9-1-1 system.

The amendment requires the commission to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 15, 2010 on both of these matters and authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy to report out legislation on these matters to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

LD 790

An Act To Waive Public Utilities Commission Approval of Special Contracts When the Contracts Apply to Detariffed Rates or Terms

PUBLIC 66

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK	OTP-AM	H-58

This bill exempts a telephone utility from the requirement to obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission for a special contract and changes in the rates under such a contract, when that utility has been granted an exemption from the requirement to file rate schedules or terms and conditions, or tariffs, with the commission. The exemption from the special contract approval requirement is limited to the same extent of the exemption from the tariff filing requirement. This means that if a telephone utility has some services exempt from tariff filing, it is only exempt from the special contract approval requirement for those specific services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)

This amendment clarifies the language in the bill regarding the exemption from the requirement for Public Utilities Commission approval of special contracts for certain telephone utilities that are already exempted from the requirement to file rate schedules or terms and conditions.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Public Law 2009, chapter 66 exempts a telephone utility from the requirement to obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission for a special contract and changes in the rates under such a contract, when that utility has been granted an exemption from the requirement to file rate schedules or terms and conditions, or tariffs, with the commission. The exemption from the special contract approval requirement is limited to the same extent of the exemption from the tariff filing requirement. This means that if a telephone utility has some services exempt from tariff filing, it is only exempt from the special contract approval requirement for those specific services.

LD 792 Resolve, Regarding On-bill Financing Programs for Energy Efficiency

RESOLVE 49

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM	S-111

This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop on-bill financing programs for energy efficiency improvements for small businesses. The bill also authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to implement on-bill financing programs for small business customers. On-bill financing is a method by which energy efficiency improvements are financed through the monthly electricity bill at 0% interest.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-111)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to examine options for establishing an on-bill financing program for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency measures and energy-efficient technologies by small businesses. The amendment also authorizes the commission to consider on-bill financing programs for residential electricity customers. The amendment requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding on-bill financing to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 15, 2010, and it authorizes the committee to submit legislation concerning this subject to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 49 directs the Public Utilities Commission to examine options for establishing an on-bill financing program for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency measures and energy-efficient technologies by small businesses and authorizes the commission to consider on-bill financing programs for residential electricity customers. The resolve requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding on-bill financing to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 15, 2010, and it authorizes the committee to submit legislation concerning this subject to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

**LD 844 An Act To Reduce Costs for Customers of Northern Maine
Consumer-owned Utilities**

PUBLIC 108

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEARY COURTNEY	OTP-AM	H-85

Under current law a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility (COU) may sale retail generation service in its own service territory. A COU, however, may not sell wholesale generation service except for incidental sales