

**SUMMARY OF LAWS CREATED FROM 1ST SESSION OF THE 122ND LEGISLATURE (2004-05) - 6/27/05**

<b>LD</b>	<b>LAW</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>AMEND 35-A</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
		<b><i>ELECTRIC/ENERGY/BUILDING CODES</i></b>		
289	PL 2005, ch. 91	Requires SPO to provide upon request to U&E a report on inventories, deliveries, etc. related to petroleum products availability in Maine		9/17/2005
472	PL 2005, ch. 200	Requires towns adopting building rehabilitation codes to adopt IEB codes and authorizes SPO to obtain funds to conduct a project that would harmonize codes & standards in law with the Maine Model Building Code and the IEB codes within 3 years; SPO is to report back to BRED by 2/1/06		9/17/2005
563	PL 2005, ch. 132	Requires the PUC to establish an equitable-treatment program to ensure assistance to low-income electric customers using electric oxygen pumps that are already eligible for current programs	§ 3214	9/17/2005
1098	Resolve 2005, ch. 109	Directs the PUC & MSHA to coordinate stakeholder group discussions regarding energy efficiency and standards for rental properties and report back to U&E 1/31/06		9/17/2005
1342	PL 2005, ch. 254	Preserves the State Nuclear Inspector position through 9/30/06 & establishes a fund at OPA for unified state assessment on interim spent fuel storage, which OPA shall disburse to appropriate entities to contribute to costs incurred by state or federal proceedings and oversight-related decommissioning activities. OPA shall keep an annual accounting of the funds and report to U&E in February of each year	§§ 4331-4334, 4395-4396	9/17/2005

1375	PL 2005, ch. 290	Allows school, towns & non-profits to cooperate in purchasing bulk electricity, petroleum, oil and natural gas	9/17/2005
1392	Resolve 2005, ch. 65	Authorizes the PUC to submit revised or new rules for the 2nd Session on Chapter 301, Standard Offer Service	5/31/2005
1408	Resolve 2005, ch. 84	Directs DEP to provide emissions data to the Air Toxics Advisory Committee; a subcommittee shall be formed to toxic & other emissions from waste-to-energy facilities and report back to Natural Resources by 2/15/06 addressing toxic air emissions	9/17/2005
1442	P&SL 2005, ch. 21	Provides broader authority to Fox Island to sell wholesale generation to reduce its cost of providing retail service	9/17/2005
1586	PL 2005, ch. 459	Provides rebates for purchases & installations of solar systems made after 7/1/05; the PUC shall establish standards & procedures for qualifying for the rebates	§ 3211 9/17/2005
1591	Resolve 2005, ch. 88	Authorizes final adoption of Chapter 920, Maine Model Building Energy Code and requires the PUC to absorb any costs associated with the implementation of the rule	6/3/2005
1610	Resolve 2005, ch. 57	Authorizes final adoption of Chapter 306, Uniform Information Disclosure & Informational Filing Requirements	5/26/2005
1685	PL 2005, ch. 350	Provides the PUC to administer energy efficiency building performance standards, changes definitions in standards to make consistent with the model building energy code, updates mandatory building standards for multi-family buildings, authorizes the PUC to distribute educational materials to designers and constructors of commercial buildings and provides that municipalities adopt an amended version of the model building energy code	§ 121 9/17/2005

**TELEPHONE/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/E-911/INTERNET**

523	PL 2005, ch. 51	Authorizes the PUC to designate an appropriate entity to be the sole entity to use 2-1-1 for access to information & referral services; the PUC shall make a designation within 60 days of the effective date of this Act or upon request of an entity for designation so long as the PUC determines it's in the public interest	§ 7108	4/20/2005
825	Resolve 2005, ch. 76	Directs DECD to develop a proposal focusing on methods to promote & market the Business Answers program; DECD shall report back to BRED by 2/1/06		9/17/2005
1101	PL 2005, ch. 131	Directs the PUC to establish, by rule, a process for providing public service pay phones with funding through providers of intrastate telecommunications services to a state USF; the PUC shall provide annual reports to U&E	§ 7104; § 7508	9/17/2005
1128	P&SL 2005, ch. 19	Requires the PUC, SPO & DECD to study technology available and costs for wireless internet for municipalities, funding resources, long-term educational and economic benefits for municipalities to become ISPs and benefits to the State; SPO shall report back to U&E by 9/12/06		9/17/2005
1259	PL 2005, ch. 251	Increases collection for the education access fund to .7% of intrastate retail charges and requires the PUC to report to U&E by 1/30/06 on the status of available revenues & expenditures	§ 7104	9/17/2005
1290	PL 2005, ch. 305	Directs the PUC to transfer \$85,000 annually from the state USF to the Communications Equipment Fund, as well as an additional \$37,500 if the Bureau of Rehabilitation doesn't receive sufficient funds; the PUC may require contributions to the state USF in order to cover authorized transferred funds	§ 7104; § 8703	9/17/2005

1373	PL 2005, ch. 303	Requires EMS board to adopt rules in consultation with ESCB concerning dispatchers responding to E 911 calls with certification moved to the EMS board at Public Safety and funding to implement certification requirements and PSAP training from the E-911 fund	9/17/2005
1418	Resolve 2005, ch. 62	Directs the PUC to examine equity in E-911 funding, the Telecommunications Education Access Fund and the Universal Service Fund for fees from prepaid wireless and report back to U&E in February 2006	5/31/2005
1612	Resolve 2005, ch. 63	Directs ESCB to conduct a stakeholder group to examine E-911 calls made by deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired persons and report back to U&E by 1/15/06	9/17/2005
1613	PL 2005, ch. 336	Establishes a program for deaf & hard-of-hearing persons with incomes less than 135% of poverty level to offset costs of communications devices for emergency notification; funding is from transferred funds from the state USF to the Communications Equipment Fund. It also directs the PUC and Bureau of Rehabilitation to make recommendations and/or suggested changes regarding the transferred funds by 1/31/08	§ 7104 9/17/2005
1665	Resolve 2005, ch. 89	Authorizes final adoption of Chapter 11, MLTS Requirements provided the rule is amended to add an application section stating that nothing in the rule requires changes in activities requiring additional expenditures	6/3/2005

**GAS/DIG SAFE**

331	PL 2005, ch. 334	Makes all PUC Dig Safe rules major substantive; requires that the PUC may direct mapping of facility location if the facility is unknown to the operator and discovered during excavation; requires the PUC to adopt rules for standards for when & what level penalties are assessed for violations		9/17/2005
397	PL 2005, ch. 110	Provides that the apportionment of a gas utility's available funds for conservation be adopted by PUC rules and direct the PUC to ensure a reasonable percentage is available to low-income and small business customers; it also directs the PUC to define "small business" and to consider definitions of that term used for other small business assistance programs; it changes the funding level for conservation programs using delivery revenues	§ 4711	9/17/2005

**WATER/SEWER**

126	Resolve 2005, ch. 2	Allows Gardiner to issue & sell its temporary obligation bond notes not to exceed \$1,507,000 for an additional 2 more years		3/3/2005
244	PL 2005, ch. 7	Provides that all COU water utilities have liens to secure payment for unpaid rates	§§ 6111, 6414	6/29/2005
355	P&SL 2005, ch. 7	Makes clear that trustees of the Mexico Water District receive compensation		9/17/2005
389	P&SL 2005, ch. 11	Clarifies that a person may connect to a sewer of Waldoboro Utility District upon obtaining a permit from the trustees and upon payment of an entrance charge. It also clarifies residency of the voter. It changes the purposes for which the district may collect rates.		5/13/2005
459	P&SL 2005, ch. 8	Makes clear that trustees of the Mexico Sewer District receive compensation		9/17/2005

780	PL 2005, ch. 306	Provides that landlords or its agent be entitled to information on the status of the sewer or water accounts where renters are billed for water or sewer before a lien is placed on the property	§ 6111	9/17/2005
864	PL 2005, ch. 192	Allows sanitary and sewer districts to increase their debt limits through a referendum without going before the Legislature	§ 6413	5/20/2005
982	P&SL 2005, ch. 13	Revises the Kennebunk Sewer District charter		5/20/2005
1113	P&SL 2005, ch. 14	Creates the Fryeburg Water District		5/20/2005
1162	PL 2005, ch. 209	Allows water utilities to form regional water councils	§§ 6801-6808	5/24/2005
1204	P&SL 2005, ch. 15	Amends the charter of the Farmington Village Corporation mirroring language of a standard water district charter		9/17/2005
1265	Resolve 2005, ch. 29	Requires the Drinking Water Program, in consultation with DEP and others to report to Natural Resources by 2/1/06 regarding whether additional requirements are needed for source water protection		9/17/2005
1658	P&SL 2005, ch. 24	Authorizes the Stonington Water District to expand its territory, expand its powers and increase the number of trustees		9/17/2005
<b>MULTIPLE UTILITIES</b>				
94	PL 2005, ch. 432	Authorizes the PUC to apply administrative penalties imposed by the Commission to benefit those affected by the violations resulting in the penalty	§ 117; § 1510	9/17/2005
524	PL 2005, ch. 282	Allows DOT to use federal transportation funds to reimburse a National Register Historic District for the portion of the cost to move or relocate overhead utilities underground on the National Highway System		6/2/2005
1198	PL 2005, ch. 204	Provides that rules adopted by the PUC regarding promotional advertising, allowances, rebates, etc., are major substantive	§ 302	9/17/2005

**STATE GOVERNMENT/MISCELLANEOUS**

72	PL 2005, ch. 144	Directs DEP to include in its biennial climate change evaluation a review of cost-effectiveness of actions taken toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and report back to Natural Resources	9/17/2005
121	PL 2005, ch. 222	Renames the Intergovernmental Advisory "Group" to "Commission" and changes membership; it requires SPO to designate a coordinator to work to encourage improved cooperation and efficiency between state departments and agencies	9/17/2005
230	PL 2005, ch. 248	Directs the OPA to seek to promote and enhance railroad freight service quality by providing information and assistance to shippers, agencies & organizations and to provide mediation on freight service disputes; OPA shall report back annually to U&E § 1711	9/17/2005
245	PL 2005, ch. 104	Establishes an "immediate review system" within the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in the event of suspicion of auditing issues, fraud or mismanagement of public funds	9/17/2005
286	Resolve 2005, ch. 73	Directs SPO, in conjunction with an advisory group, to study state law, policy & procedures regarding land use planning, management and regulation and to develop options for improvement with reporting back to Natural Resources 2/1/06	9/17/2005
301	Resolve 2005, ch. 123	Makes the Freedom of Access Advisory Committee temporary rather than permanent and adjusts its duties	9/17/2005

438	Resolve 2005, ch. 26	Requires Conservation and IFW to review policies & procedures relating to contacting emergency service providers and allowing those providers access to facilities and to review and implement training in emergency response with reporting back to Conservation & Forestry by 1/31/06	9/17/2005
468	PL 2005, ch. 12	Budget Bill (FYE 6/05, 6/06 and 6/07) - Subchapter 4(D) appoints a member representing public utilities to serve on the Maine Library of Geographic Information board	6/29/2005
508	PL 2005, ch. 3	Supplemental Budget Bill (FYE 6/30/05)(J-1, PUC § 116 carryover funds)	3/11/2005
656	PL 2005, ch. 23	Raises the salary range of 6 positions at the PUC and corrects an inadvertent omission in law regarding the Director of Energy position	6/29/2005
739	PL 2005, ch. 36	Budget Bill - FYE 6/06 & 6/07 (See Part D - affects IT section of Government)	4/1/2005
860	P&SL 2005, ch. 6	Allows the PUC to fulfill its responsibilities without requesting an increase in funds collected from ratepayers	5/12/2005
868	PL 2005, ch. 135	Apportions assessments on public utilities to fund the PUC & OPA based on gross intrastate revenues; unspent funds shall be carried over to the next fiscal year; the OPA assessment shall produce revenues to fund the Nuclear Advisor position and the PUC shall account for resources devoted to matters other than public utilities and report back to U&E by 3/1/06	5/18/2005
978	Resolve 2005, ch. 17	Directs the Advisory Council on Tax-deferred Arrangements to study whether it's in the interest of the State, its employees and retirees belonging to MSRS to have a deferred retirement option program; a report back and proposed legislation is due back to Labor by 1/15/06; DAFS to provide administrative support for the study within its existing resources	9/17/2005



981	PL 2005, ch. 279	Provides an expanded organizational name to the Baxter School for the Deaf to better reflect its programs and services	§ 8704	9/17/2005
1306	P&SL 2005, ch. 18	Authorizes PFR to work with the AG, home building & improvement representatives and others to develop a model registration process for contractors with a report back to BRED by 2/1/06		9/17/2005
1462	PL 2005, ch. 332	Makes changes in laws regarding taxation		9/17/2005
1677	PL 2005, ch. 386	Supplemental Budget Bill (6/06 and 6/07)- See Part A (SEP Revolving Loan Fund) and (funding for revision to salary range for Denis)		6/13/2005

**This year 133 bills were followed out of 1,692 bills. 76 were in U&E and 57 were testified on by the PUC. 60 total bills followed were enacted into law, 39 from U&E, and 24 are being carried over to the next legislative session, with 10 from U&E. In 1997 (when Electric Restructuring was discussed), we followed 109 bills, enacted 50 and also testified on 50 and carried only 7 over to the next session.**