

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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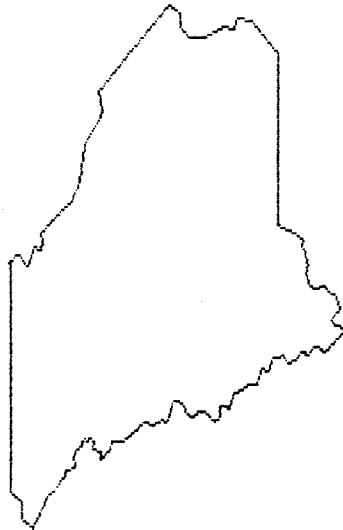


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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
Public Utilities

BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1983

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957	AN ACT TO TRANSFER RES IDUAL JURIS- DICTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OVER MUNICIPAL TRANSIT DISTRICTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	Z. Matthews Baker Paradis Emerson (for PUC)	ENACT. PL 142 (OTP)
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SUMMARY: The bill is described by the title. 1981 PL 469 abolished PUC's transportation division and transferred economic regulation of passengar carriers to DOT and safety regulation to the Department of Public Safety, but left jurisdiction over municipal transit districts with PUC (Title 30). This bill transfers jurisdiction to DOT. Note that 1981 P&SL c. 22 created the Casco Bay Island Transit District which remains under the regulatory jurisdiction of PUC.

958	AN ACT RELATING TO DEPOSITS AND TERMINATION OF UTILITY SERVICE FOR NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS	Joseph Richard Bost Twitchell (for PUC)	ENACT. PL 233 (OTPA)
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SUMMARY: Present law sets requirements for deposits for and termination of utility services but only for residential customers. The bill would have authorized the PUC to set reasonable rules for commercial and industrial customers too.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-144) Modifies the bill to simply require the utility to file clear schedules for deposits and terminations and to follow those schedules.

959	AN ACT TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT CERTAIN MUNICIPAL WATER UTILI- TIES SECURE APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ISSUE SHORT- TERM DEBT	Vose Kany Weymouth McGowan (for PUC)	ENACT. PL 163 (OTP)
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SUMMARY: Retains the requirement for PUC approval of long term debt of publicly-owned utilities, but specifically exempts short term debt (less than 12 months). At present, some district charters require PUC review of short term debt but some don't.

Committee Amendment "A" (H098) The bill applies to all municipal and quasi-municipal utilities. The amendment clarifies the title.

960	AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESTRICT- ING RATE INCREASE PROPOSALS BY PUBLIC UTILITIES	McGowan Lewis Ridley Kany (for PA)	ENACT. PL 149 (OTP)
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SUMMARY: Present law bans utilities from filing a second general rate increase within one year of filing any general rate increase. But, fuel cost adjustmen for electric utilities are not considered a "general rate increase." The bill added fuel adjustments for gas utilities to that exemption.