

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
Public Utilities

BILL SUMMARY



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957 AN ACT TO TRANSFER RES IDUAL JURIS- Z. Matthews ENACT. PL 142
 DICTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES Baker (OTP)
 COMMISSION OVER MUNICIPAL TRANSIT Paradis
 DISTRICTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF Emerson
 TRANSPORTATION (for PUC)

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 Joseph ENACT. PL 233
 TERMINATION OF UTILITY SERVICE FOR Richard (OTPA)
 NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS Bost
 Twitchell
 (for PUC)

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 Vose ENACT. PL 163
 THAT CERTAIN MUNICIPAL WATER UTILI- Kany (OTP)
 TIES SECURE APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC Weymouth
 UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ISSUE SHORT- McGowan
 TERM DEBT (for PUC)

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- McGowan ENACT. PL 149
 ING RATE INCREASE PROPOSALS BY Lewis (OTP)
 PUBLIC UTILITIES Ridley
 Kany
 (for PA)

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.