

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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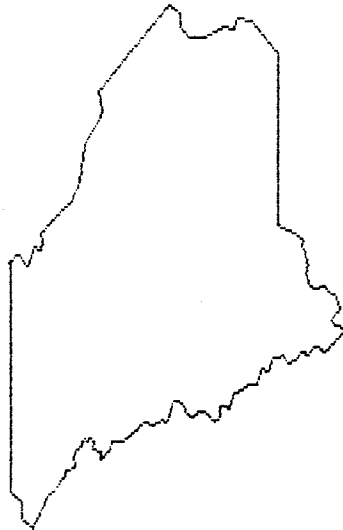


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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
**Public Utilities**

BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1983

Prepared by:

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Public Utilities Committee

Office of Legislative Assistants  
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961	AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESS CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS	Crowley D. Carroll Kany Hayden (for PA)	ENACT. PL 141 (OTP)
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SUMMARY: Existing law allows 10 or more customers to make a formal complaint to PUC about utility rates or service. But there is no time limit for PUC to process these, and some cases have taken years. The bill requires a decision within 9 months, the same as for a utility rate case.

964	AN ACT TO IMPROVE AND CLARIFY THE RATE-SETTING PROCEDURES FOR MUNICIPAL AND QUASI-MUNICIPAL WATER COMPANIES	Baldacci Vose Bost Weymouth (for PUC)	OTP-ND (LD 1446)
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SUMMARY: Would make several changes in 35 MRSa §72, which was extensively revised in 1981 to allow publicly-owned water companies to set their own rates. The bill establishes public information requirements, sets a time schedule for filing those rates, establishes procedures for the ratepayers appeal, and utility challenge of any appeal petition.

1008	AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COSTS OF ELECTRICAL SPACE HEATING IN RESIDENTIAL UNITS	Gauvreau Michaud Hayden (for PA)	ONTP
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SUMMARY: Would have required PUC to assess present and future demand for electric space heating, and the cost of generating capacity to meet it, with a report by January 1, 1984.

<b>1009</b>	AN ACT TO ALLOW CONSUMER GROUPS TO SOLICIT FUNDING THROUGH UTILITY BILLS	Connolly	LV/WD
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SUMMARY: Would have allowed approved consumer organizations to enclose circulars in utility bills mailed to consumers. The organization must reimburse the utility for costs. (Modelled on a Wisconsin law).