

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1984

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature. The summaries are arranged alphabetically, and indexed separately by committee.

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC UTILITIES
BILL SUMMARY



MAY, 1984

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<u>LD</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	(Committee Report) <u>DISPOSITION</u>
2326	AN ACT CREATING THE WISCASSET WATER DISTRICT		P&SL 1983, C. 82 2ND ND OF LD 1765

SUMMARY: The new draft incorporates numerous technical changes and conforms the bill to Title 35. A referendum is required before creation of the district.

This replaced LD 2242, which was an incorrect version of the new draft.

2390	AN ACT TO REQUIRE DOWNSTREAM PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF RELEASE OF WATER IMPOUNDMENTS		PL 1983, C. 114 ND OF LD 2135 HA H-638
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SUMMARY: The new draft retains the intent, but makes major changes in the bill. It requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish water level danger zones where there are rapidly changing water levels below impoundments, and to promulgate rules to protect recreational users (but not to regulate water flow).

House Amendment "A" (adopted) changed the language to authorize, but not require these actions.

2421	AN ACT TO FAIRLY APPORTION THE COST OF CANCELED ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES	Vose	PL 1983, C. 811 OTP-A(accepted) CA H-675 HA H-714(not adopt) HB H-719
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SUMMARY: Under present law (38 MRSA @52-A) the recovery of the costs of a canceled plant does not begin until the date when the plant was to be completed. In fact, the Commission cannot issue an order concerning that recovery until that date. There is an exception if the utility can show that it will be unable to perform its public service or attract capital on reasonable terms without earlier recovery. There is also an exception for grandfathered cases and soon would be for cancellations due to small power production or cogeneration. (See LD 1829). The bond rating of CMP was recently downgraded, partly because of this law.

The bill repeals the present law and authorizes the PUC to "balance the interests of the utility and ratepayers in a just and reasonable manner" in case of a cancellation. It also institutes a \$75,000 filing fee for any utility seeking to recover cancellation costs in rates.

Committee Amendment "A" (adopted) limits this provision to facilities which actually have been cancelled.

House Amendment "B" (adopted) emphasizes that imprudently incurred costs may not be recovered.

House Amendment "A" (not adopted) would have emphasized that PUC may delay recovery.