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.

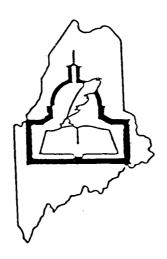
STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC UTILITIES

BILL SUMMARY



MAY, 1984

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 $\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & & & & \\ \underline{LD} & & \underline{TITLE} & & & \underline{SPONSOR} & & \underline{DISPOSITION} \end{array}$

2326 AN ACT CREATING THE WISCASSET P&SL 1983, C. 82
WATER DISTRICT 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 PL 1983, C. //4
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF RELEASE ND OF LD 2135
OF WATER IMPOUNDMENTS HA H-638

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.

AN ACT TO FAIRLY APPORTION Vose PL 1983, C. 811
THE COST OF CANCELED ELECTRIC OTP-A(accepted)
GENERATING FACILITIES CA H-675
HA H-714(not adopt)
HB H-719

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 low.

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.