

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

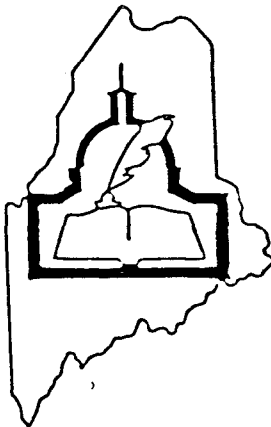
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
UTILITIES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

Prepared by:

Haven Whiteside, Legislative Assistant
Office of Legislative Assistants
State House, Station 13 Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 289-1670



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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS
ROOM 101
STATE HOUSE, STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-2486

SARAH HOOKE
JULIE S. JONES
JOHN B. KNOX
EDWARD POTTER
MARGARET J. REINSCH
LARS RYDELL
JOHN SELSER
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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 719 AN ACT DEFINING THE RIGHT OF EMPLOYEES OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES TO TESTIFY BEFORE
ND: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AND THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

CONNOLLY
ANDREWS

OTP-AM

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 322

H-235 CA

H S

SUMMARY: The bill establishes in the statutes the right of employees to testify before or provide information to Legislative Committees and the PUC on their own behalf on their own time. It prohibits supervisors from discharging or otherwise discriminating against the employee because of that testimony. Enforcement provisions include civil action for injunctive relief, reinstatement, back pay if awarded by the court. Collective bargaining rights are protected, and a jury trial is available.

The bill parallels a bill to provide similar protection to state employees (LD 98) which resulted from a study by the Committee on State Government. The difference in that situation is that the State is the employer. In both that bill and this the purpose is to allow the State to receive potentially important information.

The committee amendment (H-235) retains the prohibition against discrimination by supervisors against employees of public utilities who provide information to the legislature or the PUC. The amendment added a provision that the protection would not apply if the employee acted in bad faith or presented false or slanderous testimony. The employee would also have to bring the matter to the employer's attention in writing. It also requires employees to follow contractual grievance procedures before bringing a civil suit.

LD: 722 AN ACT RELATING TO ITEMIZED PHONE BILLS

MICHAEL
MITCHELL

ND:

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

CH #

SUMMARY: The telephone company does not provide an itemized list of long distance calls under certain intrastate discount services. This legislation would require itemized bills for all long distance calls to be provided on request, and authorize a fee for that service.