

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

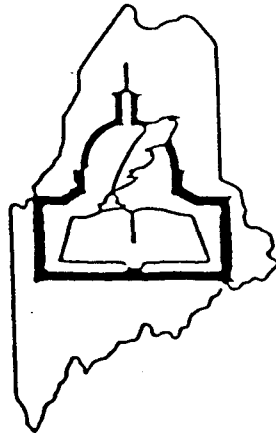
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
UTILITIES
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1986

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

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTF	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

The Committee Amendment (S-394) requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules relating to the treatment of any excessive surplus. Amendment H-584 was not offered. It would have struck a retroactive provision.

LD AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE
1711 CHARGE LIENS

PL 1985
C. 563

Sponsor: DAVIS, L., Richard, Paradis, E., Baldacci
Committee Report: OTP-AM

H-525 CA H S

SUMMARY: Present law (35 MRSA §316.3) provides that utility liens be enforced in the same manner as mechanics liens. This bill shortens the period for the utility to file the lien from 90 to 60 days and shortens the time for filing an enforcement action from 120 to 90 days. Under this bill purchasers and mortgagees take the premises free of the lien unless it has been already recorded in the registry of deeds.

The Committee Amendment (H-525) restores the time limits to 90 and 120 days. It also makes it clear that the lien is dissolved if appropriate action is not taken within those time limits.

LD AN ACT REGARDING UTILITY ASSESSMENTS
1712

INDEF PP

Sponsor: BALDACCI, Webster, C., Vose
Committee Report: OTP-AM

H-529 CA H S

SUMMARY: Present law (35 MRSA §17.1) requires utilities to pay an annual assessment to support the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund. Each utility must pay its pro rata share for the entire fiscal year prior to July 1st. This bill allows, but does not require the PUC to establish an alternate payment schedule for any utility assessed more than \$100,000. That schedule would allow for quarterly payments spread out through the year and thus reduce the utility's revenue requirement somewhat.

The Committee Amendment (H-529) removes the \$100,000 limit, makes it clear that the alternative schedule is permissive, not mandatory and adds a fiscal note.

LD	AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE YORK WATER	LVWD
1721	DISTRICT	

Sponsor: ROLDE
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: The bill authorizes financing of water system expansion by assessment of a system development charge on new customers and those who increase their demand (See LD 1745)

LD 1723	AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE LAWS GOVERNING PUBLIC UTILITIES	PL 1985 c. 629
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Sponsor: BALDACCI, Richard, Clark, H., Nicholson
Committee Report: OTP-AM

S-424 CA H S

SUMMARY: This bill was submitted by the PUC and includes a number of relatively minor changes and clarifications in Title 35:

(1) Requires notice of and authorizes PUC review of projects rebuilding or relocating transmission lines of 100 kilovolts or more;

(2) Technical;

(3) The PUC Reimbursement Fund receives filing fees and is used to pay expenses related to the filing. This bill would treat photocopying and similar fees the same way;

(4) Requires municipal & quasi-municipal water utilities to include specific rate information in the notice they must give if they elect to set their own rates under §72;

(5) Under present law, municipal & quasi-municipal water utilities may collect an extra 5% in rates for a contingency fund. This bill repeals a requirement that excess funds collected in this way be applied to a sinking fund, to retire debt or returned to the ratepayers. It allows but does not require that excessive surplus be used to reduce future rates;