

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

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. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

LD 408

An Act to Protect the Health and Safety of Nuclear Waste Site Workers

PUBLIC 174

SPONSOR(S)

HOLT
MCHENRY
COLES
TITCOMB

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-180

SUMMARY

This bill sought to prohibit the storage or disposal of radioactive wastes, other than spent fuel assemblies, anywhere within the emergency evacuation zone surrounding the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Plant. As amended (H-180), the bill requires the Maine Low-level Radioactive Waste Authority and the Maine Emergency Management Agency to adopt a plan detailing how the safety of low-level radioactive disposal facility workers will be maintained in the event of a nuclear accident at Maine Yankee in the event the facility is located in the Primary Emergency Planning Zone.

LD 426

An Act to Regulate Water Utility Contingency Reserve Funds

PUBLIC 221

SPONSOR(S)

VOSE
CARPENTER
CLARK H
MORRISON

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-113

SUMMARY

This bill amends provisions of the law which relate to contingency reserve funds for consumer-owned water utilities. The bill sets a maximum annual contingency allowance which a consumer-owned water utility may provide for in rates (i.e. an estimated overcharge in rates to create surplus reserve funds). The bill also sets maximums that may be accumulated in a contingency reserve fund account for various sized water utilities. The bill allows amounts collected in excess of the maximum fund amounts to be credited to an unappropriated retained earnings account. The bill limits the use of the contingency reserve fund. The bill does not limit the use of the unappropriated retained earnings account.

The committee amendment (S-113) allows the Public Utilities Commission to reduce the rates of a consumer-owned water utility if the commission determines that the utility has an unreasonably large balance in its unappropriated retained earnings account. The amendment also requires a water utility to hold a public hearing if in each of three consecutive years the utility actually collects through its annual contingency fund allowance an amount equal to or greater than 7% of the utility's total annual operating revenue.

LD 435

An Act to Require Telephone Companies to Include Emergency Numbers for Sheriffs' Departments in Directories

PUBLIC 45
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

DAGGETT
JACQUES
O'GARA
MATTHEWS

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-45

SUMMARY

This bill requires telephone companies to include in their directories the emergency numbers for sheriffs' departments that serve the directory area.