

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1992**

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

**SPONSOR(S)**

CLARK H  
COLLINS  
BALDACCI  
MORRISON

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

H-889

**SUMMARY**

The bill proposed to create the Electric Facilities Siting Council which would issue facility siting certificates for the siting of electric transmission lines. These certificates would have been a composite of all individual permits, approvals or authorizations that would otherwise be necessary for the construction and operation of the facility. The council would have consisted of the Public Utility Commissioners, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Conservation, the Director of the State Planning Office and a representative from a so-called municipal advisory committee. Review of projects by the PUC would have been limited to review for technical need. The electric utility would have been granted eminent domain power to take lands for the approved facility.

Committee amendment "A" (H-889) changes the title of the bill and replaces the provisions of the bill with language that accomplishes the following:

1. Requires utilities, when seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission for the siting of a transmission facility, to send to municipalities through which the line is proposed to be located a copy of the application and a copy of the proposed corridor or corridors for the line. A corridor is an area no more than 1/2 mile in width in which the proposed line is to be located. These municipalities, upon request, are granted automatic intervener status in the Public Utilities Commission proceeding;
2. Requires utilities to submit to the Public Utilities Commission with an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity a map of the proposed corridor in which a proposed transmission facility would be located. This replaces the current requirement that a map of a specific route be presented to the Public Utilities Commission;
3. Requires utilities to prepare maps of corridors in cooperation with appropriate natural resource protection agencies and affected municipalities;
4. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to provide notice to municipalities through which a proposed transmission line corridor extends that a certificate of public convenience and necessity does not affect municipal authority to regulate the siting of the transmission line.

**LD 1852**

**An Act to Encourage the Development of Alternative Energy Sources**

**SPONSOR(S)**

WHITCOMB  
ANDERSON

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to encourage the development of small generation facilities using wind, water, methane and solar power by granting them first decrement rates or avoided cost rates that include environmental externalities. The bill was expressly intended to override the provisions of the Small Power Production Act and chapter 36 of the Public Utilities Commission's rules as applied in the Foss Mill Hydroelectric Station and the North New Portland Energy Corporation rate petition requests.