

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

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

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

4693NRG

LD 573

An Act to Ensure Residential Consumer Representation on and before the Public Utilities Commission

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

TREAT
ADAMS

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to:

1. Require that at least one member of the 3-member Public Utilities Commission have a background in residential consumer advocacy;
2. Require at least 2 of the 3 commissioners to attend a substantial portion of any rate hearing;
3. Establish a petition procedure whereby 25 customers of a utility may request the commission to hold a public hearing concerning the utility in a location other than Augusta; and
4. Change the procedures for funding of intervenors in cases in which the federal standards under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 are implemented. Under the new provision, an intervenor would have qualified at the outset of the proceeding based on a determination of whether the intervenor's participation was likely substantially to contribute to the commission's decision in the proceeding.

LD 631

An Act to Protect Consumers of Cable Television

PUBLIC 219
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

TITCOMB

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-106 VOSE
S-58

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require cable television companies to stop billing consumers for services within 10 days after the consumer requests the service to be disconnected. This provision would have been retroactive to January 1, 1992.

The committee amendment (S-58) amends the title and strikes and replaces the bill. Under the amendment, a cable television franchisee is required to discontinue billing for a service within 10 days of a consumer request to disconnect that service unless the consumer unreasonably interferes with access by the franchisee to equipment on the consumer's premises to which the franchisee must have access to complete disconnection.

The amendment also proposed to prohibit hookup fees being charged when the only change in service is a change in the party billed and when there is no change required in the installation service.

The Senate amendment (S-106) deletes the latter portion of the committee amendment pertaining to the fees assessed for the transfer of a billing account from one party to another.