

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 638 An Act to Modify Public Utilities Commission Practice and Rules of Evidence

PUBLIC 108

SPONSOR(S)
VOSE

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-69

SUMMARY

The Maine Rules of Evidence do not include a "catch-all" exception to the hearsay rule that permits the presiding officer at the commission to, in the examiner's discretion, admit otherwise reliable hearsay statements into evidence. The Federal Rules of Evidence, F.R. Evid. 803(24), and rules that apply to most federal administrative agencies and many Maine administrative agencies, include a "catch-all" for reliable hearsay. This bill creates a comparable exception to the hearsay rule for evidence taken and received at the Public Utilities Commission.

The committee amendment (S-69) makes a technical correction to the bill.

LD 658 An Act Related to Hook-up Fees for New Installations of Electric Heat

PUBLIC 177

SPONSOR(S)
HEESCHEN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-223

SUMMARY

This bill repeals the current prohibition on hook-up fees. This bill also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a hook-up fee for new installations of electric service entrances.

The committee amendment (H-223) strikes the latter provision from the bill.

LD 659 An Act to Provide Protection for Mortgagees Under the Utility Laws

PUBLIC 110

SPONSOR(S)
CARLETON

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill corrects an error in Title 35-A in order to preserve protection for certain bona fide mortgagees. This protection existed in the Maine Revised Statutes, former Title 35, section 316, subsection 3, but was inadvertently removed in the recodification of Title 35 in Public Law 1987, chapter 141.

LD 661 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Passamaquoddy Water District

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
CLARK
CLEVELAND

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to exempt Passamaquoddy Water District property from taxation.