

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. John J. Cleveland

Sen. Philip E. Harriman

Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

LD 2175

An Act Relating to the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District

**P & S 75
EMERGENCY**

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCALEVEY LIBBY | <u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-872 |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

LD 2175 proposed to remove the current debt limit of the Limerick Water District.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-872) proposed to replace the substance of the bill. This amendment proposed to increase the debt limit of the Limerick Water District from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 and provide that the district may further increase its debt limit by the referendum process established for Standard Water Districts.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 75 increases the debt limit of the Limerick Water District from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 and provides that the district may further increase its debt limit by the referendum process established for Standard Water Districts. Chapter 75 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 31, 1998.

LD 2204

An Act to Extend the Electric Rate Stabilization Program

**PUBLIC 781
EMERGENCY**

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAREY | <u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-505 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

LD 2204 proposed to resolve conflicting statutory provisions: It proposed to clarify that the amount of the moral obligation of the State that may be pledged to support electric rate stabilization projects is \$330,000,000.

The bill proposed to extend the period during which certificates of approval may be issued for electric rate stabilization projects from February 1, 1998 to July 31, 1998.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-505) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 781 resolves conflicting statutory provisions: It clarifies that the amount of the moral obligation of the State that may be pledged to support electric rate stabilization projects is \$330,000,000.

The law extends the period during which certificates of approval may be issued for electric rate stabilization projects from February 1, 1998 to July 31, 1998. Chapter 781 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 1998.

LD 2208

An Act to Encourage the Development of Small Distributed Generation Technologies That Reduce Pollution

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| KONTOS | ONTP | |

LD 2208 proposed:

1. To deregulate generators using small distributed generation technologies (defined as generators with less than 250 kilowatts of capacity at any one site and resulting in a net reduction of air emissions within the New England region);
2. To obligate electric and transmission and distribution utilities in the State to wheel power generated by small distributed generation technologies or by generators using renewable resources, if that power is being used to provide backup service for small distributed generation technologies; and
3. To establish the rates for the required wheeling.

LD 2209 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 302: Consumer Education Program; Electric Restructuring, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission** **RESOLVE 99 EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | OTP-AM | H-948 |

LD 2209 provided for legislative review of Chapter 302: Consumer Education Program; Electric Restructuring, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-948) proposed to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its standard offer rule, provided the rule were amended to require the commission to consider the recommendations of the advisory board in developing and implementing the consumer education program.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 99 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its standard offer rule, provided the rule is amended to require the commission to consider the recommendations of the consumer advisory board in developing and implementing the consumer education program. Chapter 99 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 30, 1998.

LD 2214 **An Act to Repeal the Laws Governing the Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District** **P & S 69**