

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

with the pre-existing users use of the ground water. The bill creates a legal cause of action on the part of the pre-existing user and provides for damages to compensate the pre-existing ground water user. The bill also requires a report by the chairman of the Land and Water Resource Council on further actions necessary to address ground water use problems.

The committee had considerable discussion on the bill but was unable to reach a consensus on an approach to deal with the problem of inequitable allocation of ground water resources. Therefore, the bill will be held over to the next Session.

LD: 745 AN ACT TO PREVENT WELL WATER CONTAMINATION COOPER
ND: 1299 USHER
HOLLOWAY
JACQUES

OTP-ND HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:
See New Draft LD 1299

LD: 771 AN ACT TO CLARIFY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF MINERAL BROWN L
ND: 1466 EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND DISCLOSURE RIDLEY

OTP-ND HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:
See New Draft LD 1466.

LD: 836 AN ACT TO PERMIT MEDIATION OF WATER LEVEL MASTERMAN
DISPUTES MARTIN J
LAW
RUHLIN

ONTP HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:
This bill would have provided a mechanism for the resolution of water level conflicts on bodies of water impounded by dams that are not regulated by existing state law.

Current law permits the State to establish water levels for bodies of water impounded by dams when the Board of Environmental Protection grants a permit for the construction or reconstruction of a hydropower project, orders alterations to a dam after a safety inspection, awards ownership of an abandoned dam or establishes a water level regime for a dam not regulated by federal law. If a petition for establishment of a water level regime cannot be acted upon under any of these provisions of State law, the provisions of this bill would have permitted the board to refer the matter to mediation with the goal of encouraging the parties to reach an agreement that resolves the dispute without resort to court. The bill would have provided a framework for selection of mediators, implementation of the mediation process, and termination of the process.

LD: 837 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM ENERGY
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR MAJOR APPLIANCES
ND: 1589 SOLD IN MAINE

CASHMAN
ANDREWS
WEBSTER M
COLES

MAJ OTP-ND HOUSE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
MIN ONTP SENATE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:
See New Draft LD 1589.

LD: 838 AN ACT TO PROTECT FRESHWATER WETLANDS

MITCHELL
USHER
MICHAUD
HOLLOWAY

MAJ OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted MAJ
MIN ONTP SENATE Enacted MAJ
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 485

H-191	CA	MAJ REP	H	S
H-206		LAW		
S-352		PEARSON	H	S

SUMMARY:
Present law regulates the alteration of freshwater wetlands within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission. Within the organized portion of Maine, various wetlands are protected under the Great Ponds Act, the Stream Alterations Act and the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act.

This bill regulates the remaining freshwater wetlands that are unprotected under present law which are 10 or more acres in extent and unforested by establishing a regulatory