

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

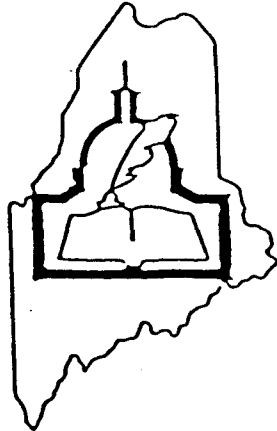
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
UTILITIES
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1986

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, covering the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD . AN ACT TO REQUIRE CLOSER REVIEW OF THE
1944 CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR ELECTRICAL GENERATING
PROJECTS

ONTP

Sponsor: BALDACCI, Andrews, Clark, H., Vose
Committee Report: ONTP

SUMMARY: Present law is not entirely clear on the authority of PUC to place cost or other limits on a major construction project once approved. The bill makes clear that in the future the PUC will have the power to specify the total allowed cost and date of completion for major construction projects before they begin. In addition, the commission will have the power to order a cancellation of the project if it will be more than 25% over budget, unless a showing is made of good cause for the project's continuation.

LD AN ACT DEFINING THE RIGHTS OF LANDLORDS,
1950 TENANTS AND CABLE TELEVISION OPERATORS

LVWD

Sponsor: VIOLETTE, Clark, H., Andrews, Paradis, E.
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: The bill establishes guidelines for provision of Cable TV in multiple dwelling units. It authorizes tenants to subscribe to Cable TV services. Those services shall be installed at no cost to the landlord and shall not interfere with the safety, functioning, appearance or use of the dwelling. The owner may only require payment of \$1 for the installation unless the owner can show a larger financial loss as a result. Existing rights of any occupant to use individual or master antenna equipment shall not be impaired. It provides the Cable TV operator with necessary access for installation and maintenance.

LD AN ACT TO PROHIBIT LOCAL MEASURED SERVICE
1956 PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1986

H-OTP-AM
S-ONTP

Sponsor: (Utilities Committee Study)
Committee Report: OTP-AM, ONTP

H-502 CLARK H

SUMMARY: This bill is report Y of the study of local telephone service conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities. This bill prohibits local measured service prior to December 31, 1986, except for resold services and for the limited optional measured service that was available at the end of 1985.

A local measured service telephone rate structure is scheduled to go into effect February 15, 1986, in 8 localities. A group of citizens has circulated legislation to ban mandatory local measured phone service and direct the State to keep flat-rate local phone service at as low a cost as possible. That legislation is to be submitted in February as an initiated bill. Under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18, if the Legislature does not enact that legislation the initiated bill will be submitted to the voters in November 1986.

House Amendment H-502 struck out the emergency preamble and clause.

LD	AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE RATE	H-ONTP
1957	STRUCTURE	S-OTP-AM

Sponsor: (Utilities Committee Study)
Committee Report: OTP-AM, ONTP

H-496	CA	S
S-476	BALDACCI	S

SUMMARY: This bill is report X of the study of local telephone service conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities. The bill permits a 2-year trial of optional local measured service pricing of telephone service for business and residential customers, provided that the Public Utilities Commission finds that it is not inconsistent with other provisions of law and that it is fair and equitable and helps maintain universal service. Additional requirements for residential customers include a mandatory cap and mandatory availability of calling with no time-based usage charge during off-peak hours.

A sunset provision is included: Local measured service is prohibited 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 113th Legislature in 1988, unless authorized by a future legislative Act. A Public Utilities Commission study is required with a report on July 1, 1987, to assist the Legislature in making that determination.