

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

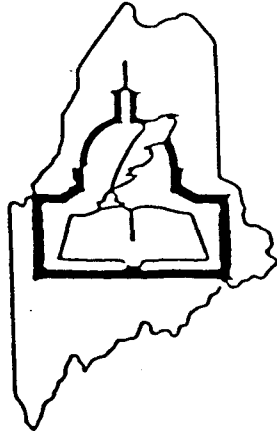
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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 AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE BRUNSWICK
2256 SEWER DISTRICT

P&SL 1985
c. 102
EMERGENCY

Sponsor: PRIEST, Clark, N., Hayden, Rydell
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1738

SUMMARY: At present, the Brunswick Sewer District is arguably governed by 2 different procedural requirements for issuance of bonds or notes: One in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1201, subsection 10 and the other in the charter. The new draft repeals the cross reference to the Title 38, section 1201, subsection 10, and amends the charter to bring the existing procedural requirements together in one place. The new draft also retains the cross reference in the charter to other subsections of Title 38, section 1201, which are not duplicated in the charter and which are important to the issuance of bonds and notes.

LD AN ACT TO ASSIST CONSUMERS IN OBTAINING REDRESS
2259 FOR VIOLATION OF THEIR RIGHTS BY REGULATED
UTILITIES

PL 1985
c. 657

Sponsor: BALDACCI, Chalmers, Simpson, Swazey, M.
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1915

SUMMARY: The new draft, like the bill, provides a way for an aggrieved customer to collect actual damages for willful and reckless disconnection. By giving the authority to the Administrative Court it makes it unnecessary for a customer to undergo the legal and other expense of initiating a suit against the utility in court. It essentially provides for an order for payment of damages at the same time the utility suffers a civil penalty for the violation of the rule. In addition, the new draft provides that before an action is brought in the Administrative Court the customer shall notify the utility of the alleged wrongful termination.

LD AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE
2299 PASSAMAQUODDY WATER DISTRICT

CARRIED OVER
TO SPECIAL
SESSION

Sponsor: VOSE, Brown, L.
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1829

SUMMARY: This new draft provides extensive protection to residents of Pembroke, while meeting the water supply needs of the water district. Withdrawals by the district are limited to the lesser of 500,000 gallons per day or the sustainable yield of the aquifer. In the event that any well on the aquifer is adversely affected, the district will restore the well or provide a free hookup to the system. The district will set up an escrow fund of \$10,000 for that purpose. Finally, the district will provide service on request, at customary rates to any resident of Pembroke.

The new draft was enacted, but recalled from the Governors desk, recommitted, and held for the Special Session.

LD AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE
2317 SERVICE PROGRAM

H-INDEF PP
S-OTP-AM

Sponsor: BALDACCI, Vose
Committee Report: OTP-AM, ONTP

S-464 CA S

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a credit for certain low-income users in order to help them continue to have basic telephone service.

The Federal Communications Commission now imposes a \$1 per month access charge for residential customers. In June 1986, the charge will be raised to \$2. The Federal Communications Commission will waive the \$2 charge for low-income customers if a state provides a matching \$2 per month per eligible customer. The total state-federal reduction is \$4 per month.

The Committee Amendment (S-464) changes the title of the bill to reflect the nature of the program, to assist low-income telephone users. It also clarifies the appropriation language.