

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
UTILITIES
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

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 summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted 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 "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

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

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

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-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD
160

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAWS FOR TRANSMISSION
OF ELECTRIC POWER AND TO STUDY RELATED ISSUES

PL 1987
c. 123
EMERGENCY

Sponsor:
Committee Report: OTP-A
Amendments Adopted:
H-82 COMMITTEE
S-52 KERRY

SUMMARY: This bill is the report of the study of electric power transmission and purchases conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities in accordance with Public Law 1985, Chapter 740. The bill amends the review of major power purchases under Title 35, section 13-B, to add a requirement for the commission to consider the comparative economic impacts on the State of importing power from outside the State as compared to providing that power from renewable resources within Maine.

Present law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to order wheeling from utility to utility and from small power producer to outside utility; and it requires wheeling between affiliated industrial enterprises, subject to certain conditions. The bill adds a definition of affiliated interests and use it in the section requiring wheeling. It requires a wheeling utility to make reports to help the commission keep abreast of the volume and implications of wheeling by Maine utilities. The bill also mandates the commission to monitor the progress of wheeling and to analyze the potential bottlenecks to efficient power transport, strategies to alleviate these bottlenecks, and the effects of wheeling and increased competition on electric consumers and the industry. The commission is to report on these matters to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 1987.

The committee amendment changes the bill by inserting an optional review in place of a mandatory review by the Public Utilities Commission of the comparative economic impacts of importing power versus in-state production, in connection with Public utilities Commission review of a proposed power purchase agreement. It also adds energy conservation among the options to be reviewed.

The amendment also replaces the definition and use of the term "affiliated interest" in connection with wheeling of electric power with the definition and use of the term "affiliate," similar to that term as defined in the new chapter 36 of Public Utilities Commission rules. This does not change the authorization in present law for wheeling from an industrial enterprise to an affiliate in the State.