

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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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
1035

AN ACT RELATING TO RATE-SETTING PROCEDURES BY
MUNICIPALLY-OWNED UTILITIES

PL 1987
c. 65

Sponsor: INGRAHAM, Ludwig
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 104

SUMMARY: Present law allows municipal and quasi-municipal water utilities to set rates locally, with appeal to the Public Utilities Commission. They are also treated differently from other water utilities in having special provisions on apportionment of costs for water main extensions and for expansion of water supply systems.

The new draft provides that municipal water companies like the Houlton Water company, whose stock is wholly owned by a municipality, or any other water utility which is wholly owned by its consumers, shall be treated for rate-making purposes in a manner identical to municipal and quasi-municipal water districts and departments.

LD 1063 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR THE HEARING
AND SPEECH IMPAIRED IN PUBLIC FACILITIES

ND LD 1773

Sponsor: MELENDY, Connolly, Kilkelly, Perkins
Committee Report: OTP-ND LD 1773

SUMMARY: See New Draft LD 1773.

LD 1066 AN ACT TO CREATE A CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS

ONTP

Sponsor: CONNOLLY, Jr.
Committee Report: ONTP (Majority)
OTP (Minority)

SUMMARY: The bill establishes a code of ethics for Public Utilities Commissioners in addition to the general conflict of interest laws that apply to State officials in general and the APA that applies to Public Utilities Commission proceedings. In particular, the bill would prohibit "lending the prestige of the office to ... the interests of others", it would prohibit socializing with executives of regulated utilities; it would prohibit ex parte communication or public comment on pending proceedings. The bill also would prohibit political activity by any commissioner. Most of the provisions in the bill are similar to those applicable to judges under the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Public Utilities Commission reported at the public hearing that their employee's manual incorporates a code of ethics from the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissions.