

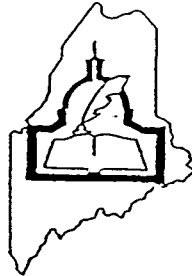
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

JULY 1989

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1989

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 for each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

SPONSOR(S)

CLARK H
HOLT
PARADIS E
STROUT D

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-31

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies which transmission line projects must receive the prior approval of the Public Utilities Commission. The clarification is achieved by amending the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132 in 2 respects. First, subsections 1 and 2 are amended to provide that prior approval is required for the construction of transmission lines which are "capable of carrying" 100 kilovolts or more, even if they initially carry less than 100 kilovolts. Second, subsection 3-A is added to include "minor" transmission line construction projects under the same treatment for rebuilding and relocation of existing lines with respect to the necessity of prior Public Utilities Commission approval. The utility will be required to notify the Public Utilities Commission of any plans with respect to minor transmission line construction projects and must file for approval only if ordered to do so by the Public Utilities Commission.

The bill also amends the statutory deadline for approval of transmission line projects, which are made necessary by the purchase of capacity or energy, to make the deadline consistent with the deadlines for the approval of the purchase.

The committee amendment makes additional clarifications and minor changes to the statute governing prior approval by the Public Utilities Commission of certain electric utility transmission line construction projects as follows:

1. It adds an emergency preamble and clause in order for the new requirements to be in effect for the next transmission line projects.
2. The amendment replaces the word "carrying 100 kilovolts" to "operating at 100 kilovolts" in four places to make clear that the regulations apply to the designed capacity of the line and not at what a utility might initially decide to transmit over the line.
3. It adds the clarification that the new requirements for minor transmission line construction projects supersede the general requirements.
4. It specifies that the fee for a petition to construct a transmission line is 4/100 of 1% of the costs of the project.
5. It adds a new provision allowing the commission to waive the requirement of a two months notice before filing a petition.
6. It adds a fiscal note indicating the costs will be absorbed by the commission.