

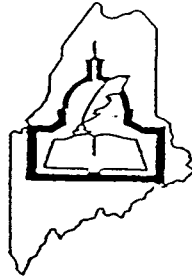
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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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Sen. David L. Carpenter

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Rep. John F. Marsh

* Denotes Chair

Staff: Lars H. Rydell, Legislative Analyst

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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.

An Act to Create the Commission to Study the Possibility of Including the Cost of Environmental Impacts in the Least-cost Planning Process of Electrical Utilities and the Public Utilities Commission

SPONSOR(S)

BOST
HANDY
PAUL

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-260 CLARK H
S-116

SUMMARY

The original bill would have encouraged further development of demand management programs in the State. In the Maine Energy Policy Act of 1988 the Legislature recognized that utilities should give conservation preference over cogeneration and Canadian purchases when developing least-cost energy plans. Under the original bill, electric utilities would have been required to pay 20% more than their established avoided cost for energy and capacity purchased from non-utility providers of demand side management energy savings. The 20% premium was established to recognize that meeting energy needs through conservation has no environmental impact, does not result in energy losses through transmission and distribution lines and avoids any reserve margin requirement established by the New England Power Planning Pool.

The committee amendment replaced the original bill by establishing a study commission to examine means by which the Public Utilities Commission can take environmental impacts of electrical generation and purchase, and demand side management into account in its decision-making process.

The House amendment makes a technical change to allow legislators to receive per diem payments provided for in the committee amendment.

The study did not receive funding.

An Act to Make Changes to the Public Utilities Commission Laws

SPONSOR(S)

BOST
PAUL
PARADIS E
AIKMAN

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-78

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to make minor substantive or housekeeping changes to the laws governing public utilities.

Section 1 reinstates the words -- "as may be required" -- to qualify the commission's allocation of fees to pay for commission expenses relating to filing fees. These words were inadvertently deleted from the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund law during the 1987 recodification of the Public Utilities Commission laws.

Section 2 clarifies the types of transactions between a public utility and an affiliated interest which require approval of the Public Utilities Commission to include the guarantee of debt and the furnishing of goods. Section 2 also authorizes the commission to make the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 707, subsection 3 applicable to transactions between affiliated interests of a public utility, even though the utility is not a party to the transactions, if the transactions may have a significant effect on the utility.