

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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* Denotes Chair

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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)
DUTREMBLE D
HOBBINS
DUTREMBLE L
LIBBY

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have regulated incineration plants (waste to energy facilities) as public utilities under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission. Included under this regulation would have been public waste disposal corporations, or other municipal or quasi-municipal corporations, as well as privately owned entities. It would have covered plants which incinerate municipal or industrial solid waste for purposes of electric power generation or solid waste disposal, unless the waste constitutes less than 2% of the fuel.

In addition, the bill would have amended the site location of development law to make it clear that incineration plants are subject to review under that law, in addition to any other review required by law.

The bill was re-referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. That committee developed a more comprehensive regulation of solid wastes (see LD 1431 under that committee).

LD 394 An Act to Extend the Toll Call Discount Given to Deaf,
Hearing Impaired or Speech Impaired Persons

PUBLIC 66

SPONSOR(S)
ANTHONY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-30

SUMMARY

Currently, deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired persons are entitled to a 70% rate reduction for intra-state toll calls because they rely on teletypewriters and consequently are much slower to transmit messages. That discount is not available to providers of vocal relay services who relay messages between hearing or speech impaired clients and persons or agencies without hearing or speech impairments. The discount is also not available to community centers that provide information and referral services to this same clientele. These agencies are required to use teletypewriting devices to communicate with deaf individuals and hence have the same added costs as deaf individuals from the much slower transmission of messages.

This bill extends the discount presently available to persons with speech or hearing impairments and gives it to those agencies that connect such individuals with non-hearing impaired individuals.

The committee amendment clarifies that the Division of Deafness must certify which agencies or service centers are eligible for the discount. It also insures that the costs incurred by a telephone company are just and reasonable expenses for rate making purposes.