

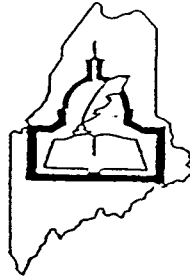
# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES  
  
JULY 1989

MEMBERS

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Sen. Charles P. Pray  
Sen. David L. Carpenter

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Rep. Alexander Richard  
Rep. Maria Glen Holt  
Rep. James R. Handy  
Rep. Norman R. Paul  
Rep. Herbert C. Adams  
Rep. Eugene J. Paradis  
Rep. Barbara E. Strout  
Rep. Rosalie H. Aikman  
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.

LD 579      An Act to Promote the Access of Cable Television to Maine  
Citizens

CARRY-OVER

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
PRAY		
HOBBINS		
PARADIS E		
CLARK H		

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided standards by which the Public Utilities Commission would determine reasonable pole attachment rates paid by cable television systems to utilities in instances where the commission exercises jurisdiction in order to resolve disputes regarding attachment fees.

The bill was held over until the next session of the legislature in anticipation that the affected parties will develop a compromise solution. At present the telephone company and the cable industry are not in agreement.

LD 658      An Act to Amend the Maine Sanitary District Enabling Act and  
the Sewer District Laws

LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
CLARK H	LV/WD	
HOLT		
PARADIS E		
BOST		

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended existing sewer and sanitary district statutes. In addition to some non-substantive changes in wording and organization of the statutes, the bill would have allowed the board of directors of a district to change its debt limit, with a referendum vote of the district, or amend the district's bylaws without first seeking legislative approval of the changes.

**LD 772**      An Act to Provide a Penalty on Delinquent Public Utilities

PUBLIC 86

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
RICHARD	OTP-AM	H-85
HANDY		
STROUT B		
CARPENTER		

SUMMARY

The original bill would have required the Public Utilities Commission to impose a \$100 penalty for each 30 day period in which a public utility fails to file reports or fails to file for approval of the Public Utilities Commission of certain other actions as required by law. The intent of the penalty was to provide an additional incentive for the timely filing of reports and petitions to reduce the number of delinquent filings and the resulting administrative burden on the Public Utilities Commission. The Public Utilities Commission may excuse all or part of the penalty upon finding excusable neglect. In no case could the total penalty exceed \$1000.

The committee amendment, which replaced the original bill, required the Public Utilities Commission to send a written notice before imposing the fine. The rewrite of the bill also made the imposition of the fine optional for the commission.