

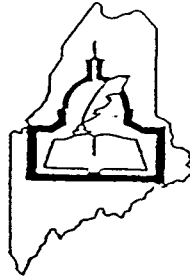
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.

SPONSOR(S)BOST
BALDACCI
CARTER
PARADIS ECOMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-213

SUMMARY

The intent of the original bill was to establish mechanisms to oversee development of the cable television industry in Maine. It would have provided standards for franchise practices, provided guidance to community organizations and municipalities in franchise negotiations; and stimulated the development of diverse instructional, educational, community interest and public affairs programming. Other provisions prohibited censorship, required the offering of locking devices and limited the liability of cable television companies for program content.

Landlords would have been prohibited from interfering with the installation of cable television facilities, but could set reasonable conditions.

The committee amendment changes the strictly regulatory focus of the original bill to one which focuses on providing consumers a clear method of addressing complaints. It requires the company to have a toll free number and to keep records of complaints. The company also has to provide the subscribers with a notification of the complaint process contained in the franchise agreement, required of the company by this statute and available through the Office of the Attorney General. It requires the cable company to give a pro rata rebate for interruptions in service lasting more than 24 hours. It places in state law the federal regulation that contracts be non-exclusive. It requires that the franchises include provisions for access to, and facilities to make use of, one or more local public, educational and governmental access channels. It makes violation of this statute a violation of the Unfair Trades Practices Act. It adds a fiscal note.

LD 1086 An Act Concerning the Regulatory Treatment of Consumer-owned
Electric Utilities

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)RICHARD
PAULCOMMITTEE REPORT

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTEDSUMMARY

This bill would have provided for Public Utilities Commission consideration of the ability of the elected boards of consumer-owned electric utilities to deal with certain matters under their own authority. It was substantially the same as LD 515.