

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

JUNE 1990

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**One Hundred and Fourteenth Legislature
Second Regular Session**

**Joint Standing Committee
Bill Summaries**

June 1990

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. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

OTP
OTP-ND
OTP-ND-NT
OTP-A
ONTP
LVWD
INDEF PP

Ought to Pass
Ought to Pass in New Draft
Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
Ought to Pass as Amended
Ought Not to Pass
Leave to Withdraw
Indefinitely Postponed

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond, 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)PARADIS E
BOST
CLARK H
WEYMOUTH**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

At the end of the First Regular Session, the 114th Legislature transferred a portion of the budget and 4 positions in the Office of Public Advocate from the General Fund appropriation to a new dedicated account, funded pro rata by utilities doing business in Maine. In fiscal year 1989-1990, this Public Advocate Regulatory Fund supported nearly 1/2 of the office's activities on behalf of utility ratepayers at the Public Utilities Commission. The Fund automatically expired on June 30, 1990. This bill sought to renew the Public Advocate utility assessment and the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund for the 2nd year of the biennium and to restore positions in the personnel services and the expert witness budget for the Public Advocate which were inadvertently reduced when the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund was established. The cost of this assessment is to be funded by utility customers as part of the rate-making process at the Public Utilities Commission. This bill was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

LD 1980 An Act Relating to Interest Rate Swap Transactions by Public Utilities**LV/WD****SPONSOR(S)**PRAY
CARPENTER
AIKMAN
CLARK H**COMMITTEE REPORT**

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill sought to exclude interest rate swap transactions by utilities from review by the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 1982 An Act to Preserve the Natural Values of Public Water Utility Lands**PUBLIC 685****SPONSOR(S)**BOST
CLARK H
PARADIS E
MARSH**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-507

SUMMARY

This bill, as amended (S-507), requires consumer-owned water utilities to provide notice of the sale of certain utility lands to the Public Utilities Commission, the municipality where the land is located and a local newspaper. The Public Utilities Commission will provide notice to parties who may be interested in the land for conservation or recreational purposes. Interested parties will have 8 months to procure financing to purchase the land unless that time period is waived by the Public Utilities Commission. The municipality in which the land is located has an assignable right of first refusal to purchase that land. The sale of land by a utility under this section may not be considered an unreasonable or imprudent action by the water district trustees solely by reason of sale of the land at a price below market value. The title was amended to reflect the changes in the committee amendment.