

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were 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.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

**LD 436 An Act to Increase the Limit of Indebtedness of the Newport Water District from \$1,500,000 to \$3,500,000**

**P & S 2  
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TARDY EMERSON	OTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill increases the debt limit of the Newport Water District from \$1,500,000 to \$3,500,000. This bill is designed to allow sufficient funds to be raised by the district in order to meet the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

**LD 458 An Act to Provide Funds to the Maine Rural Water Association for Services to Water and Wastewater Systems**

**P & S 67  
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MAYO MARTIN H HOLLOWAY MARTIN J	OTP	S-434 BRANNIGAN

**SUMMARY**

This bill sought to provide \$100,000 each year of the 1992-93 biennium to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to be used by the Maine Rural Water Association to assist municipalities and sewer districts with sewer improvements and other related activities.

The Senate amendment (S-434) strikes the original bill and replaces it with language which transfers all funding for the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) in the 1992-93 biennium to one program in the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The result is \$133,000 appropriated in each year of the biennium to the Bond Bank for the MRWA.

**LD 495 An Act to Create a Maine "Dig-safe" System**

**PUBLIC 437**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCCORMICK SIMONDS CLEVELAND CARPENTER	OTP-AM	S-224

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a Maine Dig-safe system. As amended by the committee (S-224) the bill modifies existing law relating to excavations near underground facilities (such as gas, sewer, water and electric utility underground lines) and establishes a damage prevention ("dig-safe") system clearinghouse of which certain underground utility owners are required to be members. As amended, this bill requires excavators to provide notice to the damage prevention system before commencing any excavation and requires the damage prevention system immediately to notify member underground facility operators of the proposed excavation. Member operators are required to mark their underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation. As amended, the bill requires gas utilities and natural gas pipeline utilities, before commencing any excavation for the purposes of working on an underground transmission line, to notify the fire department in whose service area the excavation will occur. It also requires these same utilities to provide maps of their main supply underground transmission facilities to municipalities,

fire departments and emergency response agencies. As amended, the bill requires an excavator to provide notice to operators of underground facilities who are not mandatory or voluntary members of the damage prevention system. As amended, the bill requires underground facility operators to join in a study of the costs of establishing a Maine, stand-alone system. As amended, the bill has an effective date of January 1, 1993

**LD 505 An Act to Encourage Electric Utility Efficiency and Economical Electric Rates**

**PUBLIC 413**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
VOSE CARPENTER AIKMAN	OTP-AM	S-203

**SUMMARY**

The bill sought to give broad powers to the Public Utilities Commission to establish rate adjustment mechanisms. As amended (S-203) the bill allows the commission to establish any reasonable rate-adjustment mechanism to promote efficiency in electric utility operations. The commission is directed to consider the ratepayer impact of any rate-adjustment mechanism considered.

**LD 658 An Act to Clarify the Lien Rights of Water Utilities**

**PUBLIC 136**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
ADAMS CLEVELAND CONLEY MORRISON	OTP-AM	H-140

**SUMMARY**

This bill gives water utilities the same lien rights as sanitary districts against multi-unit residential rental property with regard to overdue accounts. This lien right allows the water utility, by following a certain series of procedures, to create a mortgage on the served property which has priority over all other liens except those for taxes. The committee amendment (H-140) clarifies that as between the sanitary district lien and the water utility lien, the sanitary district lien has priority.

**LD 686 An Act to Limit Compensation of Utility Executives to Comparable Salaries of State Officials**

**ONTP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
OLIVER HANDY HOLT ADAMS	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required that the Public Utilities Commission limit the amount of utility executive compensation recoverable in the rates.