

# 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 758**

**An Act to Require Certain Proposed Cogenerators to Obtain Review by and Approval of the Public Utilities Commission**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CROWLEY  
SWAZEY  
VOSE  
CLARK H

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to place any cogenerator which sells power to others, has power production capacity exceeding 30 megawatts and uses a fossil fuel as its primary energy source under regulation as a public utility by the Public Utilities Commission.

**LD 774**

**Resolve, to Establish the Commission on Comprehensive Energy Planning**

**RESOLVE 50  
EMERGENCY**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
PRAY  
LORD

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-205  
S-472

**SUMMARY**

This resolve proposed to establish the Commission on Electric Utilities and Long-range Energy Production Planning to study the electric utility needs in the State and to develop a long-range plan for the production of electricity within the State. As proposed in the bill, the commission would have had 15 members consisting of legislators, certain department heads and individuals representing certain interests.

The committee amendment (S-205) expanded the scope of the commission to require the development of a comprehensive energy plan for the state. The plan must include an assessment of future demand for energy in the State, a study of the options available to meet growing needs including for each an examination of cost, reliability, environmental impacts and cost, otherwise know as externalities, an analysis of regional power arrangements and recommendations including recommendations for instituting an ongoing comprehensive energy planning process.

The committee amendment also increased the commission membership to 16 all of whom are either legislators or department or agency heads.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-472) incorporates the technical amendments proposed in Senate amendment "A" (S-220). It also deletes the appropriation section from the committee amendment since the funding for the commission was provided for in another bill. The amendment also changes the reporting date for the commission.

**LD 857**

**An Act to Ensure Adequate Resources for Energy Assistance Programs for Low-income Households**

**CARRIED OVER**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
BRANNIGAN  
PARADIS P  
GILL

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-174

**SUMMARY**

The bill proposed to appropriate from the General Fund \$3,000,000 to the Energy and Weatherization

program and \$8,000,000 to the Low-income Home Energy Assistance program in each fiscal year of the 1991-93 biennium. This bill was designed to carry out recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Energy Policy for Maine's Low-income Citizens

The committee amendment (S-69) replaces the appropriation sections of the original bill. The amendment provides for allocations from the Stripper Well Fund and from federal matching funds for fiscal year 1991-92 for a special seasonal energy supplement designed to assist recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children in meeting their heating energy needs. This amendment also provides funds for the Energy and Weatherization Program to assist low-income persons through weatherization and other energy efficiency programs. Under this amendment, money is not appropriated from the General Fund.

This amendment also requires that, to the extent possible, the Department of Human Services work in cooperation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Public Advocate and the Division of Community Services to design the seasonal energy supplement program in order to coordinate the program with any utility-sponsored, low-income programs. (See LD 1428).

**LD 877      An Act to Amend the Augusta Sanitary District Charter to Comply with Federal Sewerage Pretreatment Requirements      P & S 10 EMERGENCY**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
BUSTIN PARADIS P DAGGETT NORTON	OTP-AM	S-51

**SUMMARY**

The bill amends the charter of the Augusta Sanitary District Charter to give the district enforcement authority with regard to industrial users who violate pretreatment standards. The bill proposed to set the penalty for a pretreatment standard violation by reference to the federal Environmental Protection Agency Effluent Guidelines and Standards Regulations. In addition, the bill would have made a violation a class E crime.

The committee amendment (S-51) sets the civil penalty at \$2,000 a day for each violation and eliminates the criminal penalty. (Note: LD 1358 supersedes this bill.)

**LD 893      An Act Concerning Utility Projects in an Existing Right-of-Way      ONTP-MAJ REP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
CLARK H CARPENTER VOSE MORRISON	ONTP      MAJ OTP-AM      MIN	

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to exempt from review by the Department of Environmental Protection under the Site Location of Development law any rebuilding, reconstruction or upgrading of a public service corporation transmission line within the existing right-of-way.