

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

Staff:

Jon Clark, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670*

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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

KAREN L. HRUBY
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JOHN B. KNOX
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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:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<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 1097 An Act to Assist Municipal Solid Waste Energy Recovery Facilities

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
MICHAUD
POULIOT

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require that the rate paid by an electric utility for electricity generated by a municipal solid waste energy recovery facility owned or operated by or for the benefit of a municipality or municipalities that have formed a regional association is not less than the highest rate charged by the electric utility to the municipality in which the facility is located.

LD 1138 An Act to Clarify the Regulation of Water Districts

PUBLIC 226

SPONSOR(S)
CARPENTER
AIKMAN
EMERSON

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-122

SUMMARY

This bill creates an exemption from the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2357, which requires quasi-municipal corporations or districts to provide reasonable notice and hearing in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act before adopting any rule or expanding or creating any program. The bill proposed to exempt any quasi-municipal corporation or district subject to review by any state agency.

The committee amendment (S-122) exempts all public utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission from the provision of Title 30-A, section 2357.

LD 1194 An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Kingfield Water District from \$350,000 to \$2,000,000

P & S 13

SPONSOR(S)
POWERS
BAILEY R
MILLS
WEBSTER

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill amends the charter of the Kingfield Water District by increasing the debt limit of the district from \$350,000 to \$2,000,000. This bill is designed to allow sufficient funds to be raised by the district to meet the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

LD 1224 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lubec Water and Electric District

P & S 14

SPONSOR(S)
TOWNSEND
VOSE

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-250

SUMMARY

This bill amends the charter of the Lubec Water and Electric District to reflect the sale of the

district's electric business on August 1, 1990. As clarified by the committee amendment (H-250) the bill permits the district to hold all money received from the sale of the property formerly used to provide electric service.

LD 1330 An Act Regarding the Regulation of Customer Premise Wire and Interexchange Carrier Selection PUBLIC 318

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
VOSE CLARK H	OTP-AM	S-184

SUMMARY

This bill proposed statutorily to deregulate the installation, repair and maintenance of telephone "inside wiring" (that portion of the telephone wiring on the customer's premises) and to exempt from Public Utilities Commission rate regulation any investment, expenses, revenues or earnings derived by the utility from inside wire work.

The committee amendment (S-184) instead authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to deregulate inside wiring ("customer premise wiring") services when it finds competition exists between providers of those services. The amendment retains the commission's authority over the ratemaking treatment of expenses and revenues associated with customer premise services offered by utilities.

The committee amendment also prohibits "slamming": A local exchange carrier must have written authorization from the customer before changing, at the request of an interexchange carrier, the customer's interexchange carrier.

LD 1358 An Act to Grant Enforcement Powers to Sewer Districts PUBLIC 213

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HOLLOWAY HEINO	OTP-AM	S-129

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to grant to sewer districts the broad powers of enforcement that are granted to municipal officials under Maine Revised Statutes Title 30-A, section 4452.

The committee amendment (S-129) narrowed the proposed scope of enforcement powers and granted these powers to both sewer and sanitary districts. The grant of enforcement authority is the minimum required for publicly owned treatment works under the federal Water Pollution Control Act and implementing regulations. Under the bill as amended, sanitary and sewer districts are authorized to seek injunctive relief from and a \$1,000 a day penalty against industrial users who violate pretreatment standards administered by the district. This provision supersedes inconsistent provisions in a sewer district charter.