

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES**

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1992

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities

LD 1491 **An Act to Limit Late Fees Charged on Cable Television Rates**

PUBLIC 657

SPONSOR(S)

PLOURDE
DIPIETRO
ADAMS

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM MIN
ONTP MAJ

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-902 MIN REP

SUMMARY

This bill, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish procedures to regulate rates for cable television and report the procedures to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature by November 1, 1991.

The minority Committee Report, Committee Amendment "A" (H-902), strikes the language of the bill and replaces it with language that limits the late fees that may be charged by cable companies on bills for basic tier service to the maximum amount established under the State's usury laws on consumer credit sales (Title 9-A, Part 2). Basic tier service is any service tier that includes the retransmission of locally-available television broadcast signals. The amendment addresses only this tier of service because federal law preempts state rate regulation of any other tier of service.

LD 1548 **An Act Related to Incineration Plants**

PUBLIC 676

SPONSOR(S)

MELENDY

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-879
S-562 CLEVELAND

SUMMARY

This bill, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to define "incineration utility" and to permit, at the request of a municipality, regulation of the rates, tolls and other charges that an incineration utility charges for disposal of solid waste from its customers. Under this bill, incineration utilities, like other utilities, would have paid an annual assessment to the Public Utilities Commission to help defray the cost of regulation.

Committee Amendment A (H-879) strikes and replaces the bill; it requires incineration facilities to file annual reports with the Maine Waste Management Agency within 60 days of the end of the facility's fiscal year. The Maine Waste Management Agency may grant deadline extensions. These reports must include the following: total annual and monthly weight in tons of solid waste received by the facility and the waste sources; the tipping fee schedule of the facility for the last completed fiscal year and the coming fiscal year; total annual and monthly revenues received, identified by revenue sources; and total annual expenditures. The amendment also requires incineration facility executives to certify the accuracy and completeness of the report; permits the agency to prescribe the format of the report and to require other information; establishes a civil forfeiture of up to \$200 per day for any person who violates any of the provisions of the bill; and establishes a civil penalty of up to \$500, payable to the State, for any person who certifies an annual report knowing the report to be incomplete or inaccurate. The amendment changes the title of the bill.

The Senate amendment (S-562) increases the filing period for the annual report to 90 days after the end of the facility's fiscal year. The amendment also provides that tipping fee information include fees for commercial customers set out according to each category of commercial customer.