

# 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 1428 An Act to Require Electric Utilities to Develop Proposals for Affordable Pricing for Low-income Residential Customers and for Financing Conversions from Electric Space Heat**

**PUBLIC 253**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
ADAMS TREAT CLARK H CLEVELAND	OTP-AM	H-252

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires electric utilities to file with the Public Utilities Commission pricing proposals and techniques for making electricity more affordable to residential households that have been certified eligible for federal energy assistance. The bill also requires electric utilities to develop proposals for financing conversions of electric space heat systems to systems relying on other less expensive fuels. The committee amendment (H-252) clarifies that such conversions must be cost-effective.

**LD 1491 An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Regulate Rates for Cable Television**

**CARRIED OVER**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
PLOURDE DIPIETRO ADAMS		

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposes to require the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules regulating rates for cable television.

**LD 1501 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Presque Isle Sewer District**

**P & S 20**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
MACBRIDE DONNELLY COLLINS	OTP-AM	H-320

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the charter of the Presque Isle Sewer District, giving the district the same powers with regard to establishing and collecting rates as are granted to sanitary districts under Maine Revised Statutes Title 38, sections 1202 and 1208. As under section 1202, the district is granted a lien on real estate served by the district to secure the payment of rates. This lien takes precedence over all other liens except tax liens. The committee amendment limits the interest rate charged by the district on delinquent accounts to the highest lawful rate set by the Treasurer of the State for municipal taxes.

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

**CARRIED OVER**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
MELENDY		

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposes to require the Public Utilities Commission, whenever requested by a majority of the

municipal officers of a municipality that disposes of waste at an incineration plant, to regulate the fees charged the incineration utility to customers who dispose of solid waste in the utility's incineration plant. Existing contracts are proposed to be exempted from such regulation, except that proposed changes in fees by the utility could be regulated.

**LD 1574      An Act to Revise the Charter of the South Berwick Water District**

**P & S 19  
EMERGENCY**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
FARNUM CARPENTER	OTP-AM	H-332

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the charter of the South Berwick Water District. The bill extends the boundaries of the district to include all of the Town of South Berwick. It proposed to provide for a new rate of compensation for the district's trustees. It also proposed to require 2 monthly meetings of the board of trustees and to enable all residents who are ratepayers and water users of the district to vote in district meetings.

The committee amendment (H-332) removed all the provisions except those extending the boundaries of the district. The reason for the extension of the boundaries is to provide water to an area (Hooper Sands Road) which has been contaminated by hazardous waste.

**LD 1592      An Act to Increase the Annual Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund Assessment and Make Certain Other Changes**

**PUBLIC 343  
EMERGENCY**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
CLARK H CLEVELAND CARPENTER AIKMAN	OTP-AM	H-369

**SUMMARY**

This bill increases the annual Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund assessment. The bill proposed to increase the assessment to \$4,475,000 beginning in fiscal year 1991-92 and \$4,918,000 beginning in fiscal year 1992-93. The committee amendment (H-369) reduced the assessment in fiscal year 1991-92 to \$4,473,000; it left intact the assessment for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The additional funds will be used to fund increases in personnel costs and general operating expenses and to fund 22 positions previously transferred from the General Fund. The bill also adds language to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 116, subsection 1 suggested by the State Auditor and deletes subsection 7 of the same section relating to the renovation of commission offices that is now complete.

The committee amendment added two sections to the bill. It requires the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities to give recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on all expenditures from the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund. The amendment also reduces the amount of unexpended fiscal year-end funds that may be carried forward into the succeeding fiscal year from 7% of the total annual assessment to 5%.