

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.

LD 2359 An Act Regarding the Charter for Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District

P & S 79

SPONSOR(S)
DUTREMBLE D
WENTWORTH
LIBBY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill amends the date that trustees of the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District begin their term of office to the first Monday of July. The bill also provides interim transition authority for any trustee currently serving by authorizing the trustee to continue until the new commencement date.

LD 2367 An Act to Create the Searsmont Village Water District

P & S 85
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
WHITCOMB

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-1009

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Searsmont Village Water District. The committee amendment (H-1009), makes several technical corrections and excepts the referendum provisions of the bill from the municipal mandate law.

LD 2368 An Act to Create the Dresden Mills Water District

P & S 87
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
HOLT
HOLLOWAY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-1017
H-1021 HOLT

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Dresden Mills Water District. The committee amendment (H-1017) makes technical corrections, exempts the referendum provisions of the bill from the municipal mandate law. The House amendment (H-1021) requires the district to assume all rights and responsibilities of the Town of Dresden under contracts entered into between the town and the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 2395 An Act Regarding Industrial Electrical Rates

PUBLIC 769
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
CLEVELAND
WEBSTER

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-621 CLEVELAND

SUMMARY

This bill had a suggested reference to the Utilities Committee, but was not referred; rather it was tabled in the Senate pending Utilities Committee recommendations.

Section 1 of the bill proposed to require that, in any rate design case conducted by the Public Utilities Commission after April 1, 1992, the commission should determine interruptible rates consistent with and by reference to its determination of utility peaking capacity costs.

Section 2 of the bill amends the State's energy policy to recognize interruptible capacity resources as a component of demand management.

Senate Amendment B (S-621) replaces the emergency preamble. It also strikes and replaces section 1 of the bill. Substantively, the amendment refines the applicability of the interruptible rate provisions of this bill. Under this amendment, the Public Utilities Commission will not be required to follow these provisions in the rate design case involving Central Maine Power since that case was largely completed on April 1, 1992. The commission will be required to follow these provisions in other rate design cases pending on or initiated after April 1, 1992.

This amendment removes specific reference to peaking capacity costs to allow the commission to consider all utility capacity costs in setting interruptible rates.

This amendment makes other clarifications.

**LD 2417 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Construction of Utility
 Lines**

**PUBLIC 834
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

POWERS
WEBSTER
BAILEY R

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-668 CLEVELAND

SUMMARY

This bill had a suggested reference to the Utilities Committee but was not referred; rather, the bill was tabled in the Senate and considered informally by the committee.

The bill proposed to eliminate the bonding requirements for persons (other than utilities) who wish to construct and maintain electric lines. It also proposed remedies in cases where lines became unsafe.

The Senate amendment (S-668) replaces the bill. Under the amendment, the bonding requirement is retained but is reformulated to eliminate the "in perpetuity" nature of the existing law which was the source of real practical difficulty for would-be line builders.

The amendment also requires that any written agreements between a utility and a line owner must be recorded in the registry of deeds.

The amendment provides that the owner of the line is responsible for properly maintaining the line and that if the owner fails properly to maintain the line and a municipality incurs any expense as a result, the municipality may assess those expenses to the owner. If the owner of the line fails to pay the assessment, the municipality has a lien on the owner's property for actual costs incurred by the municipality.

The amendment also excepts the bill from the municipal mandate law.

LD 2424 An Act to Create the Fort Kent Utilities District

**P & S 103
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

PARADIS J
THERIAULT

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-663 CLEVELAND