

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.

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

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 members of the Utilities Committee.

The bill attempted to create the Fort Kent Utilities District.

The Senate Amendment (S-663) strikes and replaces the bill with new language creating the Fort Kent Utilities District. The amendment makes a number of technical changes from the original bill and clarifies the powers and responsibilities of the district. The amendment also exempts the bill from the municipal mandate law.

LD 2437 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Rangeley Water District

**P & S 106
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)
MILLS
BARTH

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-678 CLEVELAND

SUMMARY

This bill had a suggested reference to the Utilities committee but was not referred.

This bill makes further revisions in the charter of the Rangeley Water District, which was enacted earlier in the session and approved by the voters of the Rangeley Water District.

This bill adds a nominating procedure and clarifies the election procedures for the initial board of trustees. The terms of office of the initial Board of Trustees are also changed to coincide with the annual June town meeting of the Town of Rangeley.

The Senate Amendment (S-678) makes a technical correction.

LD 2449 An Act Concerning the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency

PUBLIC 855

SPONSOR(S)
CARPENTER
DUTREMBLE D

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill had a suggested reference to the Utilities Committee but was not referred; rather, it was simply enacted without reference.

This bill restores the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency that was repealed in the first supplemental budget bill, Public Law 1991, chapter 622.

LD 2452 An Act to Amend the East Pittston Water District Charter

**P & S 110
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)
FARNSWORTH

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-1335 FARNSWORTH

SUMMARY

This bill had a suggested reference to the Utilities Committee but was not referred.