

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

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

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

4693NRG

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities

LD 15 **An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the South Berwick Sewer District** P & S 5
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
FARNUM OTP

SUMMARY

The South Berwick Sewer District has a present debt limit of \$3,000,000, established by private and special law. The present treatment system is a primary treatment facility. The Federal Clean Water Act requires a secondary treatment facility. This bill increases the debt limit of the district to \$7,500,000 to allow the district to meet federal requirements.

LD 23 **An Act to Amend the Terms of Public Utilities Commissioners** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
KERR ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to reduce the terms of the commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission from 6 years to 4 years. Under current law, the terms of commissioners are staggered 2 years apart. This bill proposed to stagger terms one year apart.

LD 43 **An Act to Promote the Location of a Federal Department of Defense Facility in Penobscot County** P & S 3

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
MARTIN J OTP-AM H-14

SUMMARY

This bill creates a job development rate for the proposed federal Department of Defense facility in Bangor. The purpose of the bill is to make Bangor competitive with other locations in order to attract the facility to Bangor.

The committee amendment (H-14):

1. Ensures that the rate paid by the federal Department of Defense will never be greater than the otherwise applicable rate; and
2. Encourages the City of Bangor to design and construct the facility in a manner that will meet or exceed federal efficiency standards for commercial buildings, lighting, equipment and appliances.

LD 50 **An Act to Amend the Requirements for Notice of Public Proceedings of the Public Utilities Commission** PUBLIC 36

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BALDACCI OTP-AM S-36

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to repeal the last 2 paragraphs of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 108, which require the Public Utilities Commission to give notice of only those public proceedings where the commission will deal with the expenditure of public funds or taxation, or will adopt policy.

The committee amendment (S-36) modifies the public notice requirements for Public Utilities Commission meetings. Under this amendment, the commission is required to provide notice of any meeting at which the commission by law or rule is required to make a decision. In addition, the commission is required to provide public notice for several specific types of meetings. The commission is also required to give limited notice of any meeting in which the commission may decide to adopt a position before a federal agency.

LD 92 An Act to Provide for Water Rights to the Town of New Gloucester

P & S 32

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CARROLL	OTP-AM	H-339 CARROLL H-88

SUMMARY

The Yarmouth Water District was authorized in 1923 to take and use water from sources in Yarmouth, North Yarmouth and New Gloucester. This bill proposed to remove the authority of the Yarmouth Water District to take and use water from sources in New Gloucester.

The committee amendment (H-88) adds a mandate preamble to the bill.

The House amendment (H-339) provides that the district may take water from New Gloucester if approved by a joint body composed of representatives of the district and New Gloucester.

LD 121 An Act Relating to the Protection of Public Water Supplies

PUBLIC 30

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CARLETON	OTP-AM	H-37

SUMMARY

This bill permits a consumer-owned water utility to establish a fund for the acquisition of interests in land in order to protect the quality of public water supplies.

The committee amendment (H-37) makes these 4 substantive changes to the bill:

1. Expands the watershed protection fund into a water supply protection fund. Money in the fund can be used for purposes of watershed protection, groundwater protection or wellhead protection;
2. Allows consumer-owned water utilities to remove money from the water supply protection fund and return it to the unappropriated retained earnings account;
3. Forbids a utility from depositing money in the water supply protection fund unless its contingency reserve fund is at its maximum; and