

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

JULY 1993

Staff:

Jon P. Clark, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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CARRIE C. McFADDEN, RESEARCHER

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL: (207) 287-1670
FAX (207) 287-1275

**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.

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3. Specifies that any incentive rate established under these provisions must cover costs of service and include a contribution to fixed costs above the costs of service;
4. Specifies that an incentive rate is available for "incremental use" of energy, a term the meaning of which has been developed in the course of recent commission proceedings on incentive rates;
5. Prohibits the use of the rate as a means of encouraging the installation of electric resistance space heating systems;
6. Requires that revenues from sales of electricity under an incentive rate tariff be used to benefit ratepayers; and
7. Requires the commission to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities on the status of the incentive rate program by January 1, 1996.

LD 341 An Act to Encourage Conservation and Load Management by ONTP
Electric Utilities

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HEESCHEN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to allow electric utilities to earn a rate of return for cost-effective energy conservation or load-management investments that would have been from one to 5 percentage points higher than the rate of return otherwise allowed on that utility's rate base. This provision would have applied to all real estate, fixtures and personal property financed by the utility that the commission determined to be a cost-effective conservation or load-management investment, including property installed on the premises of a customer and property owned by someone other than the utility.

LD 353 An Act to Amend the Charter of the North Berwick Water P & S 21
District EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARNUM	OTP-AM	H-148

SUMMARY

This bill amends the charter of the North Berwick Water District by increasing the total amount of allowable indebtedness from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000.

The committee amendment (H-148) adds a mandate preamble to the bill and makes certain clarifying changes to the language of the charter.

LD 357 An Act to Exempt Employees of the Public Utilities CARRIED OVER
Commission from Furlough and Shutdown Days

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLEVELAND		

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to exempt, subject to agreement through the collective bargaining process, employees of the Public Utilities Commission from being required to take furlough and shutdown days.

The committee had proposed to alter the bill to exclude the commissioners from the exemptions. The bill was rereferred to the committee and a majority of the committee decided to carry the bill forward to the 2nd Regular Session.

LD 371 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Conversion of Fuel Systems

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
DONNELLY	OTP-AM	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MAJ	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to repeal the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, subsection 1, paragraph E, which requires the Public Utilities Commission to order electric utilities to develop proposals for cost-effective fuel conversions of electric space heating systems to systems using other sources of fuel.

Committee amendment "A" (H-348), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities, proposed to strike and replace the bill.

The amendment proposed to establish the Fuel Conversion Fund to be administered by the Maine State Housing Authority for the purposes of making grants and loans to low-income persons to undertake conversions of electric space heating systems to systems using other fuel sources. The amendment proposed to make an allocation from the Stripper Well Fund to the Fuel Conversion Fund.

The amendment also proposed to amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3153-A, subsection 1, paragraph F to make it clear that utility-proposed programs ordered by the Public Utilities Commission for fuel conversions should be directed at low-income homeowners and tenants.

Senate amendment "A" (S-263) proposed to more specifically define eligibility criteria for loans and grants.

LD 376 An Act to Ensure Economic Benefits from Purchases by Generators of Nuclear Power

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HOLT	OTP-AM	MAJ	
CLEVELAND	ONTP	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require any licensee of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission who proposes to invest in a major retrofit of a nuclear power plant to first obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission. The certificate would have established the need for the retrofit and the prudence of the investment, considering the potential impact on ratepayers in this State.