

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES

MAY 1994

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1994

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, 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:

PUBLIC XXX

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

ONTP

INDEF PP

FAILED ENACTMENT

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Bill failed to get majority vote

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities

LD 305 **An Act to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Include Externalities in Least-cost Planning Procedures** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KONTOS	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill was carried forward from the 1st Regular Session.

This bill proposed to require that the Public Utilities Commission develop and employ weighting factors for evaluating environmental and health-related externalities in electric utility least cost planning. (See LD 356)

LD 356 **An Act to Establish a Study Group on Energy and the Environment** P & S 80

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GRAY	OTP-AM	H-826

SUMMARY

This bill was initially referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the 1st Regular Session. The bill was carried forward to the 2nd Regular session and then re-referred to the Utilities Committee.

The bill proposed to establish the Advisory Council on Energy and the Environment for the purposes of evaluating and making recommendations concerning the State's environmental and energy policies.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-826) strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment establishes a study group. The study group is required, to the extent possible within existing resources, to create a comprehensive library on externalities at the Public Utilities Commission, to summarize state and federal environmental laws impacting the pricing of energy resources, to identify significant environmental externalities and to develop recommendations for internalizing environmental externalities. The study group is composed of the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of the State Planning Office and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. The group is required to provide a progress report to the Utilities Committee by January 1, 1995 and its final report by January 1, 1996.

The Utilities Committee is authorized to report out legislation to the 1st or 2nd Regular Sessions of the 117th Legislature in response to the reports it receives from the study group.

LD 357 **An Act to Exempt Employees of the Public Utilities Commission from Furlough and Shutdown Days** VETO SUSTAINED

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLEVELAND	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-390
	ONTP	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill was carried forward from the 1st Regular Session.

This bill proposed to exempt, subject to agreement through the collective bargaining process, employees of the Public Utilities Commission from mandatory furlough and shutdown days.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-390), which was the majority report of the committee, replaced the bill. The amendment proposed to exempt positions allocated to the Public Utilities Commission, other than commissioners, from the discretionary furlough and shutdown days. This exemption would have been subject to approval by the parties signatory to any agreement governing furlough days and shutdown days.

LD 530 An Act to Allow Public Utilities to Develop Economic Development Rates ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MORRISON VOSE	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill was carried forward from the 1st Regular Session.

The bill proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission, upon petition, to adopt economic development rate tariffs for electric utilities. Any rate adopted would have been required to be designed to encourage economic development in the State such as job creation and the attraction of new businesses to the State. The commission would have been prohibited from establishing a rate which was lower than the utility's long-run marginal cost plus 1 cent per kilowatt hour.

LD 661 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Passamaquoddy Water District ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill was carried forward from the 1st Regular Session.

The current charter of the Passamaquoddy Water District makes all property of the district subject to property taxation. Legal issues were raised about this provision. The bill proposed to exempt all property of the district from taxation. The minority report of the committee (H-899) proposed to strike the tax provision from the charter, which would have resulted in the property of the district becoming tax exempt to the extent provided by Title 36, section 651.

LD 1007 An Act to Enhance Competition in Electric Utilities ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CARPENTER	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill was carried forward from the 1st Regular Session.

The bill proposed to exempt from Public Utilities Commission review and approval electric utility transactions involving the acquisition or maintenance of an interest in any exempt wholesale generator