

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.

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LD 387 **An Act to Require Accountability for Bulk-billed Telephone Services** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MICHAEL COFFMAN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require telephone utilities that offer bulk-billed discount services to customers who make or receive large volumes of intrastate toll calls to provide to those customers at a reasonable cost an itemized accounting of all toll calls made or received that are covered by the bulk-billing service.

LD 448 **An Act to Exempt Small Businesses from Demand Charges on Electric Rates** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PLOURDE	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to exempt small businesses with 25 or fewer employees from demand charges in electric rates.

LD 467 **An Act to Allow Emergency Interruption of Telephone Service for Law Enforcement Purposes** PUBLIC 31

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
DONNELLY	OTP-AM	H-42

SUMMARY

This bill enables law enforcement officers to control the telephone communications of a person who is suspected of holding a hostage while committing a crime or who is resisting apprehension. The purpose is to allow negotiations that may lead to a nonviolent resolution of the incident, without interference from uninvolved persons.

The committee amendment (H-42) adds a fiscal note.

LD 484 **An Act to Amend the Maine Nuclear Emergency Planning Act** PUBLIC 102
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CAHILL	OTP-AM	S-68

SUMMARY

This bill amends existing law by increasing the annual fee for nuclear power reactor license holders for the next 2 years. Increased activity in emergency planning for nuclear power reactor licensees is required by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The increased cost must be borne by the

nuclear power reactor license holder. The bill also provides for an allocation for money anticipated from Seabrook, North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation.

The committee amendment (S-68) clarifies what the allocations may be used for.

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

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
MORRISON
VOSE

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to require the Public Utilities Commission, upon petition, to adopt economic development rate tariffs for electric utilities.

LD 540 An Act Regarding the Use of Natural Gas in Motor Vehicles

PUBLIC 178
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
KONTOS

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-222
H-269 CLARK

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a special rate for utility sales of natural gas for use in vehicles fueled by natural gas.

The committee amendment (H-222) strikes and replaces the substance of the bill.

Under this amendment, a gas utility is authorized to create a wholly owned subsidiary or affiliate to promote vehicles fueled by natural gas. The amendment provides that approval of the creation of the subsidiary by the Public Utilities Commission is not required. The amendment further provides that utility ratepayers will not pay for or benefit from the establishment or operation of the subsidiary or affiliate. The amendment includes several conditions on the creation of such subsidiaries or affiliates that mirror provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 708 and are designed to protect ratepayer interests. This amendment also provides certain protections for ratepayers if an unregulated parent corporation of a gas utility creates a subsidiary to sell natural gas in this State for use in vehicles.

This amendment preserves that section of the bill which excludes from the definition of "gas utility" any entity that sells natural gas solely for use in vehicles. Under the bill, as amended by this amendment, these entities are essentially exempted from regulation by the Public Utilities Commission.

This amendment also adds emergency language to the bill.

The House amendment (H-269) corrects a technical error.