

# 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&amp;S XXX</i>                | <i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 &amp; 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

**LD 1042**

**An Act to Provide Equitable Treatment of Electric Utility Conservation Costs**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

LUTHER  
CLARK

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to add a subsection to the Electric Rate Reform Act to require the Public Utilities Commission to adjust an electric utility's rates to recover revenues lost due to conservation, provided the revenue loss is not otherwise reflected in rates for the utility.

The bill also proposed to repeal the law that authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to restore revenues lost by an electric utility due to the economy, weather and conservation. The effects of the economy and the weather on an electric utility's revenues would continue to have been subject to traditional utility rate-making principles.

The bill further proposed to terminate the rate-adjustment mechanism currently in place for Central Maine Power Company ("ERAM") and to require that revenues recovered by Central Maine Power Company under ERAM would be limited to the \$8,000,000 already in rates and the amount of revenue lost due to conservation and demand-side measures commencing March 1, 1992.

**LD 1056 An Act to Expand the Use of Telecommunications by Hearing-impaired and Speech-impaired Customers**

PUBLIC 275

**SPONSOR(S)**

CLARK

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

H-345

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a 70% rate discount for calls to persons who are hard-of-hearing. The bill also enables certified deaf users of the vocal relay service to take advantage of the 70% discount when making credit-card calls. This bill adopts a recent recommendation of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council, established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 8704. This bill also incorporates recommendations by the advisory council concerning the appropriate words to use when referring to persons who are hard-of-hearing.

The committee amendment (H-345) requires the Public Utilities Commission, rather than the Department of Human Services to approve the form of affidavits filed with utilities by hearing or speech impaired persons pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7302.

**LD 1098 An Act Repealing Advisory Boards on Utilities Matters**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to eliminate the E-9-1-1 Advisory Committee and the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council.