

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

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.

This bill was submitted in compliance with Public Law 1991, chapter 844, section 8, which requires the Secretary of State to submit legislation repealing all advisory boards and commissions listed in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 12004-I and 12004-J as well as other advisory boards and commissions with similar functions.

Pursuant to that law, the boards and commissions were grouped by the subject areas within the jurisdiction of each joint standing committee and each special select committee. This bill proposed to repeal the boards identified within the jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities.

LD 1119 An Act to Deregulate Consumer-owned Electric Utilities CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PARADIS J CLARK		

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to allow consumer-owned electric utilities with elected boards to choose to regulate themselves and to be relieved of payment of the regulatory assessment.

LD 1135 An Act to Protect Electric Ratepayers from Unnecessary Rate Increases ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LUTHER ADAMS	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to prohibit an electric utility from accruing electric rate adjustment mechanism ("ERAM") revenues on its books of account until such time as the revenues are actually allowed and reflected in rates.

LD 1158 An Act Concerning the Installation of Cable and Other Utility Lines ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
RUHLIN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to allow municipal licensing authorities to require that the installation of wires on utility poles result in sufficient space on the poles for cable and other utility lines.

LD 1239 An Act to Amend the Charter of the East Pittston Water District ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARNSWORTH	ONTP	