

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

LD 1406 An Act Pertaining to Pole Attachment Rate Disputes

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
CASHMAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

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

The bill proposed to eliminate Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction over cable TV pole attachment rate disputes, thus transferring, by default, jurisdiction to the Federal Communications Commission. The commission is required under existing law to adopt specific rules governing the settling of these disputes. The commission has adopted such rules (Chapter 880, effective 10/27/93).

LD 1419 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Emergency 911

PUBLIC 566

SPONSOR(S)
VOSE

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-452

SUMMARY

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

The bill proposed to establish the Emergency Services Communication Agency within the Department of Public Safety to implement and manage the statewide E-9-1-1 system.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-452) replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the Emergency Services Communication Bureau within the Department of Public Safety. Working with the E-9-1-1 Council, the bureau is directed to estimate costs and develop the system design and performance standards necessary for implementation and management of the statewide E-9-1-1 system. The amendment also directs the bureau and council to make recommendations for the specific location of public safety answering points and makes certain information confidential. The bureau is further directed to report back to the Legislature with recommendations on these subjects.

The amendment requires telephone utilities to levy a surcharge of 2¢ per month on telephone exchange lines to fund the initial phase of system design.

The amendment also repeals outdated provisions of the law relating to E-9-1-1 capability requirements of municipalities and the establishment of the statewide E-9-1-1 system.

In addition, the amendment makes the allocation necessary for the establishment of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau. This allocation will complement expenditures of bond revenues on technical aspects of system design, data base development and municipal technical assistance in data collection.

LD 1475 An Act to Deregulate Consumer-owned Water Utilities

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
VOSE

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

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

Deregulating consumer-owned water utilities was one of the recommendations of the Commission on Governmental Restructuring. The recommendation appeared in the 2nd Regular Session of the 115th Legislature in L.D. 2330, Part G. It was not enacted.

This bill was submitted by the Public Utilities Commission as a proposed means of reducing its workload in order to redirect resources to issues it believed to be of greater importance. The bill proposed completely to deregulate consumer-owned water utilities.

LD 1482 An Act to Improve the Business Climate in the State by Making Power Available at a Lower Rate

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
VIGUE

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

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

The bill proposed to allow a business entity of 200 or more employees to negotiate for the purchase of electricity from a utility at special rates without review by the Public Utilities Commission. The bill also proposed to prohibit a utility from charging a fee for the use of its facilities to wheel electricity on behalf of a business entity purchaser.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-762), which was the minority report of the committee, also proposed to allow electric utilities to enter into contracts to sell power to business entities without commission review and proposed to allow the Governor to order a utility to provide retail wheeling to a business entity.

LD 1483 An Act Regarding Cable Television

PUBLIC 676

SPONSOR(S)
ADAMS

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-836
S-592 GOULD R R

SUMMARY

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

The bill proposed to provide consumers with information concerning cable franchise owners and to prohibit a cable television system operator from disclosing private information about any consumer.

The bill also proposed to instruct the Utilities Committee to monitor federal regulations promulgated pursuant to the federal Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 and to authorize the committee to report legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 116th Legislature regarding cable TV.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-836) strikes and replaces the bill. The bill provides that in the event service to a cable TV subscriber is interrupted for 6 or more consecutive hours, the cable provider is required, upon request, to grant the subscriber a pro rata credit or rebate. Current law requires a rebate after 24 or more consecutive hours of interruption. The amendment also authorizes the Utilities Committee to report out legislation to the 117th Legislature in response to evolving federal regulations concerning cable TV regulation. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Several floor amendments to the bill were offered in each House and three of these were initially adopted in one of the bodies. The amendments all proposed changes to just-enacted Public Law 513 regarding cable TV late fees (see L.D. 1598).

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-592) alters the wording of Public Law 513 but makes no substantive change to that law.