

# 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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-398) clarifies that the limitation on late fees associated with cable television services is 1.5% per month (the maximum amount permitted under the Consumer Credit Code). The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

This bill was chaptered as Public Law 513 prior to the end of the session. A Senate amendment was attached to L.D. 1483 amending this law. The amendment made no substantive changes. (See L.D. 1483.)

**LD 1601**      **An Act to Ensure That State Water Utility Rules Are Consistent with Federal Requirements**      PUBLIC 514

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
VOSE	OTP-AM	S-407

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to prohibit the Commissioner of Human Services from adopting rules regarding safe drinking water that are more stringent than federal law or regulations unless specifically authorized by law.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-407) provides that the Commissioner of the Human Services is proscribed from imposing on a water utility any standard, method or procedure concerning safe drinking water that is more stringent than required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act or federal regulations adopted pursuant to that Act.

**LD 1606**      **An Act to Amend the Charter of the Portland Water District**      P & S 58  
EMERGENCY

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
TAYLOR	OTP-AM	H-715

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the charter of the Portland Water District to clarify the dates on which the election of trustees occur. The bill also provides that the district share in the costs of an election in proportion to the number of offices and referenda being voted upon at the election. Finally, the bill defines the term "person holding municipal office" for purposes of determining eligibility to serve as a trustee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-715) adds a municipal mandate preamble, makes technical corrections and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1616**      **An Act to Make Changes to the Public Utilities Commission Laws**      PUBLIC 589

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
VOSE	OTP-AM	S-465

**SUMMARY**

Currently, consumer-owned water and electric utilities may change rates on an expedited basis. Current law allows the utility's ratepayers to petition the Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the proposed rate change. This bill requires petitions to include the signature, printed name and address of the signer and, under certain circumstances, allows the petitioners 7 days to provide the necessary information that is missing from the original petition. The purpose of this change is to facilitate the determination of the validity of the signatures.