

# 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

2. The commission would have been required to complete a review of the plans by June 1, 1996;
3. By January 1, 1997, the commission would have been required to hold hearings on the plans and to submit to the Legislature its report on divestiture. The bill would have required that the report include a plan for complete divestiture by January 1, 2000. The bill would have allowed the commission to include alternate plans if the commission found that complete divestiture by the year 2000 was imprudent; and
4. The Joint Standing Committee on Utilities would have been authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature in 1997 to make the statutory changes required to achieve divestiture.

**LD 1879**      **An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of the Office of the Public Advocate**

PUBLIC 633

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>		<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
CARPENTER	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-445
	ONTP	MIN	S-514    VOSE

**SUMMARY**

This bill permits up to 10% of the Public Advocate's utility budget unspent at the end of a fiscal year to be carried forward for use in the following fiscal year. The bill proposed a complicated retroactivity provision. The bill also proposed to redesignate all employees of the office as confidential employees, thereby causing certain employment benefits that previously had been paid by the employees to be assumed by the office.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-445), which was the majority report of the committee, changes the retroactive application of the Act to an effective date of June 30, 1994. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-514) removes the portion of the bill that proposed to make employees of the Public Advocate confidential, unclassified employees. The amendment also adds a new fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1904**      **An Act to Establish the Maine Surplus Energy Auction Program**

PUBLIC 662

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
CARPENTER	OTP-AM	S-491
DONNELLY		

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Maine Surplus Energy Auction Program within the Public Utilities Commission. The bill proposed to make surplus electricity available to the State's industrial and commercial users for 7 years at no less than marginal cost plus one cent. The bill also proposed to establish the surplus energy pool as 80% of the surplus electricity estimated to be available to the State's utilities.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-491) preserves the basic features of the auction program established by the bill but alters the provisions of the bill as follows: