

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

AUGUST 1995

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE  
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**AUGUST 1995**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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 publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, 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 categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

**An Act to Release the Public Utilities Commission from  
Mandatory Participation in Welfare Programs**

DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
HARRIMAN	ONTP A	
	OTP-AM B	
	OTP-AM C	

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to remove the requirement that electric utilities develop proposals for low-income assistance programs. This bill also proposed to prohibit the Public Utilities Commission from requiring electric utilities to develop or implement any programs designed to assist low-income customers in a manner that results in a subsidization of the low-income customers by other ratepayers.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-117), which was one of 2 minority reports, proposed to strike and replace the bill. Under this amendment, electric utility low-income program benefits would have been capped at .5% of the utility's 1994 revenues. This amendment also would have required the Public Utilities Commission to undertake a review of electric utility low-income programs to evaluate the appropriateness of requiring some but not all electric utilities to implement low-income programs, particularly in light of the emerging competitive electric market. The commission would also have been required to review the effectiveness and accountability of electric utility low-income programs. The commission would have been required to develop proposals for transferring the responsibility for meeting low-income customer needs to State Government.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (S-118), which was the other minority report, proposed to strike and replace the bill. Under this amendment:

1. Electric utilities would have been required to expend in benefits to low-income customers under a low-income program an amount no greater than .5% of the utility's annual revenues unless the utility were fully reimbursed from the Electric Utility Low-income Assistance Fund proposed to be created under this amendment; and
2. The Electric Utility Low-income Assistance Fund would have been created for the purpose of reimbursing electric utilities for amounts expended by the utilities under low-income programs. To the extent that funds were available, the commission would have been required to use the funds to cover the low-income benefits disbursed by electric utilities and the costs to the utilities of administering low-income programs.

**LD 337**

**An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Richmond Utilities  
District**

P & S 10  
EMERGENCY

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
MCCORMICK	OTP-AM	S-22

**SUMMARY**

This bill raises the current debt limit of the Richmond Utilities District from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-22) adds a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill. It also makes a technical change.