

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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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

LD 691 An Act to Clarify the Intent of the Electric Rate Reform Act

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
KIEFFER

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

In Public Law 1993, chapter 712, the electric rate stabilization project was enacted to allow electric utilities to obtain state financing in order to enter into buy-down or buy-out agreements between the utilities and qualifying facilities. This bill proposed to amend the Electric Rate Reform Act to provide that the electric rate stabilization project is not used to the detriment of any of the State's electric utility ratepayers, employees or shareholders.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-119), which was the minority report of the committee, proposed to strike and replace the bill. This amendment would have required Public Utilities Commission approval of direct sale agreements involving facilities that have been acquired by an electric utility under the electric stabilization program when the direct sale is to the customer of another electric utility. The Public Utilities Commission would not have been permitted to approve the direct sale if the percentage loss in annual electric revenues of the utility losing the customer were greater than the percentage increase in annual electric revenues of the selling utility as a result of the sale.

The amendment would have exempted any existing direct sale agreement and any future sales agreements between the parties to the existing direct sale agreement and any direct sales from facilities the bonds for which are fully repaid so that all state obligations related to the bonds under the electric rate stabilization program have ceased.

LD 694 An Act to Create the Franklin Utility District

P & S 17
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
GOLDTHWAIT

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-192 KONTOS
S-58

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Franklin Utility District.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-58) makes the following changes to the bill:

1. The emergency preamble is revised to clarify the emergency need for the bill;
2. A mandate preamble is added;
3. Several sections of the bill are revised to clarify their meaning;
4. A reference to tax-exempt status for the Franklin Utility District is removed. The district, if created, will have tax-exempt status according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 651;
5. Technical changes are made to the referendum clause;
6. An obsolete reference to repealed state law on local fiscal impacts is removed; and
7. A fiscal note is added to the bill.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-192) adds standard charter language concerning the filling of vacancies on the board of trustees of the Franklin Utility District.

LD 734 An Act to Revise the Ogunquit Sewer District Charter CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
CARLETON

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to repeal the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District and replace that charter. The bill proposes to rearrange and combine sections of the original charter and to make a number of changes to the charter.

LD 766 An Act to Allow the Submetering of Electric Rates in Campgrounds PUBLIC 129

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
TAYLOR OTP-AM H-160

SUMMARY

This bill permits the submetering of electric service to campgrounds under specified conditions. It proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules related to campground submetering.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-160) preserves the intent of the original bill but clarifies certain provisions. Under this amendment, a campground owner or operator may submeter electric service to sites in the campground provided that no submeter user is provided service on a long-term basis of more than 6 months. The campground owner or operator may not charge more for electric service than the campground is charged by the utility. This amendment also clarifies that submetering at campgrounds does not constitute resale of electricity.

This amendment removes the provision of the bill that would have required the Public Utilities Commission to oversee disputes arising from use of submeters.

LD 828 An Act to Provide Public Access to the Information Superhighway through Enhanced Library Telecommunications CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
TREAT

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to establish a new state policy to promote public access to new telecommunications technologies and information networks. This bill proposes to require the Public Utilities Commission to develop library access plans to promote affordable public access to advanced telecommunications technologies and networks. The commission would be required to consider a variety of options, including:

1. Reduced telephone rates for qualified public libraries;
2. Reduced service and equipment charges for installation of telephone lines and other equipment installed by a telephone utility for qualified public libraries;
3. Option plans which allow qualified public libraries to purchase blocks of time or to enter into other payment arrangements with a telephone utility; and