

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

***Sen. David L. Carpenter, Chair
Sen. Philip E. Harriman
Sen. John J. Cleveland***

Rep. Carol A. Kontos, Chair

Rep. Herbert Adams

Rep. M. Ida Luther

Rep. Conrad Heeschen

Rep. Gary L. O'Neal

Rep. Joseph B. Taylor

Rep. F. Thomas Gieringer, Jr.

Rep. Richard I. Stone

Rep. Robert A. Cameron

Rep. John P. Marshall

Staff:

Amy B. Holland, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are 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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 734 **An Act to Revise the Ogunquit Sewer District Charter** ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARLETON	ONTP	

LD 734, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to repeal the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District and replace that charter. It proposed to rearrange and combine sections of the original charter and to make a number of changes to the charter.

LD 828 **An Act to Provide Affordable Access to Information Services in All Communities of the State through Enhanced Library and School Telecommunications** PUBLIC 631

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-832

LD 828, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to establish a new state policy to promote public access to new telecommunications technologies and information networks. It proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to develop library access plans to promote affordable public access to advanced telecommunications technologies and networks. It would have required the commission 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
4. The development of a special library access fund to which telephone utilities would be required to contribute and that would be available to qualified public libraries to assist in paying the costs of acquiring and using advanced telecommunications technologies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-832) is the majority report. It replaced the bill and proposed to repeal an outdated provision requiring the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report. It proposed to establish a new state policy that affordable access to those information services that require a computer and rely on the use of the telecommunications network should be made available in all communities of the State without regard to geographic location. It also proposed to give the Public Utilities Commission the authority to do the following to carry out the goals of the State's telecommunications policy:

1. To require a telecommunications carrier offering intrastate telecommunications services to provide telecommunications services, including instruction and equipment related to such services, at reduced charges or at no charge to qualified libraries and schools for the establishment and use of a program providing access to information networks;