

# 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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*\*Denotes Chair*



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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

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

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.

The bill defines a qualified public library as any public library, public research center or school library that provides free public access to the telecommunications technologies to which a library plan applies.

**LD 854 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Searsport Water District**

P & S 20  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
WHITCOMB

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the charter of the Searsport Water District to allow the district to take water from the groundwater in an aquifer located within the Towns of Stockton Springs and Prospect.

**LD 866 An Act to Establish a Reduced Rate for Electric Utility Consumers on Life-support Equipment**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
ADAMS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission to establish reduced utility rates for those on life-sustaining equipment in their homes. The bill proposed to establish a 50% reduction in the electricity rate for people providing an affidavit indicating that the use of the equipment is necessary for life-support.

**LD 870 An Act to Allow Earlier Awarding of Funding of Intervenor in Cases before the Public Utilities Commission**

DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES

**SPONSOR(S)**  
HEESCHEN

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM MAJ  
ONTP MIN

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to change the procedures for funding of intervenors in cases in which the federal standards under the United States Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 are implemented. Under the proposed provision, an intervenor would have qualified at the outset of the proceeding based on a determination of whether the intervenor's participation was likely to contribute substantially to the commission's decision in the proceeding.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-318), which was the majority report of the committee, proposed to allow intervenors to qualify for funding if the commission found that their participation has significant value and contributes substantially to the commission's decision.