

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 & 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

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 Intervenors 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.