

# 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

**Staff:**

*Jon P. Clark, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*

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*\*Denotes Chair*



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

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

**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:

<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</b>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>FAILED ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<b>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<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 871 An Act Concerning the Calculation of Private Fire Protection Charges**

CARRIED OVER

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposes to allow water utilities to establish rates for private fire protection that include recovery for a portion of the costs of the utilities' backup facilities, including mains, storage facilities and pumps.

**LD 883 An Act to Enhance Networking Technology for Public Schools**

ONTP

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to require telephone utilities to install and maintain at cost modern telecommunication links to public schools. The bill proposed to require up to 2 links to be installed, upon the request of a school board, to secondary schools and one link to be installed, upon the request of a school board, to elementary schools. The bill proposed to permit schools and telephone utilities to petition the Public Utilities Commission to resolve any disputes arising from these provisions.

**LD 886 An Act to Improve the Business Climate in the State by Making Power Available at a Lower Rate**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
VIGUE                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to

1. Permit electric utilities to enter into contracts and to sell power to business entities in this State without review by the Public Utilities Commission;
2. Permit the Governor to require an electric utility to provide retail wheeling services to a business entity; and
3. Permit a utility to charge a fee for its transmission and wheeling services to cover direct costs only.

**LD 911 An Act to Protect Existing Utility Service**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
CARPENTER                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to change the effect of a law which was amended in 1984 concerning utility prescriptive rights to land through adverse possession.

Pre-1984, 35-A MRSA §2488 prohibited utilities from obtaining prescriptive easements on land on which their facilities are located.