

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:

CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
FAILED ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<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 1050 An Act to Encourage Competitiveness by Public Utilities

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
FAIRCLOTH**COMMITTEE REPORT**
ONTP**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED****SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to make confidential any proprietary marketing plan that a public utility files with the commission.

LD 1058 An Act Concerning the Richmond Utilities District

P & S 28

SPONSOR(S)
MCCORMICK**COMMITTEE REPORT**
OTP-AM**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
S-183**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to terminate the Richmond Utilities District and allow the Town of Richmond to acquire the assets and liabilities of the Richmond Utilities District upon voter approval by the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond and a ratification vote by the Trustees of the Richmond Utilities District.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-183) replaces the bill and amends Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 10 enacted earlier in the First Regular Session of the 117th Legislature (LD 337). That law increased the debt limit of the Richmond Utilities District and made the increase subject to referendum. Under the law, the district had only one opportunity to submit the debt increase for referendum and if it failed, new legislation would be required to authorize subsequent referenda. This amendment allows the district to put the question to referendum more than once. The district must hold the referenda prior to December 15, 1996.

LD 1063 Resolve, to Require a Study of Retail Competition in the Electric IndustryRESOLVE 48
EMERGENCY**SPONSOR(S)**
CARPENTER
CLEVELAND**COMMITTEE REPORT**
OTP-AM**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
S-251**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to investigate the issues associated with the orderly transition to a more competitive market for electricity.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-251) replaces all the provisions of the resolve and changes the title to reflect the new content of the resolve. The amendment:

1. Creates a 2-part study designed to develop plans for an orderly transition to a competitive market for retail purchases and sales of electric energy;
2. Creates the Work Group on Electric Industry Restructuring, composed of 18 members, to study the transition and to develop a consensus on as many of the relevant issues as possible;
3. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study of the transition and to develop at least 2 plans for the transition as follows:
 - A. A plan to achieve full retail market competition for purchases and sales of electric energy by the year 2000; and

- B. A plan to achieve retail competition wherever effective competition is likely and to maintain regulation in areas where necessary.

The plans must be accompanied by detailed critiques based on certain issues and the commission shall identify the plan it believes to be in the best interests of the State. The commission shall incorporate in its plans all portions of any plan developed by the work group on which the work group reached agreement. The commission shall submit its report to the Legislature by January 1, 1997;

4. Establishes a list of issues that must be examined by the work group and the commission. This list of issues was developed in tandem with another list that has come to be known as the "Ad Hoc Committee List." The Ad Hoc Committee List includes a considerable number of issues identified by various stakeholders and is organized around the 11 issues identified in this resolve. This list provides a more complete compilation of the issues raised by electric industry restructuring and constitutes an important part of the legislative history of this resolve;
5. Authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature on electric industry restructuring;
6. Establishes that none of the findings of the commission has legal effect;
7. Adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the resolve; and
8. Adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the resolve.

LD 1084 Resolve, to Require Development of Energy Plans

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

ONTP

SUMMARY

This resolve was the unanimous recommendation of the Commission on the Future of Maine's Paper Industry. It was one of 4 bills submitted by that commission.

The resolve proposed to direct the State Planning Office to take the following actions:

1. To prepare recommendations that result in a decrease of the State's high energy and electric costs;
2. To prepare recommendations to reduce the costs of and simplify hydroelectric dam licensing; and
3. To form a commission to develop a plan to increase the availability of natural gas in the State.

LD 1099 An Act to Combine the Sabattus Water District and the Sabattus Sanitary District

P & S 26

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

STEVENS A

OTP-AM

S-131

SUMMARY

This bill abolishes the Sabattus Water District and allows the Sabattus Sanitary District to acquire the assets of the Sabattus Water District.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-131) makes technical corrections and adds a fiscal note to the bill.