

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

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Rep. Herbert Adams
Rep. M. Ida Luther
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Rep. Conrad Heeschen
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Rep. Joseph B. Taylor
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Rep. Richard I. Stone*

**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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KONTOS	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-229
CARPENTER	ONTP	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill increases the authority of the Finance Authority of Maine to issue loans to electric utilities to fund agreements with qualifying facilities that reduce the costs to the utility and benefit the ratepayers. This bill proposed to increase from \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000, the amount in bonds that may be issued for loans. An additional \$40,000,000 in bonds was proposed to be allowed to be issued to fund capital reserve funds. The bill extends, from May 1, 1995 to February 1, 1996, the period during which loans may be made.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-229), which was the majority report of the committee, increases the amount in bonds that may be issued for loans by the Finance Authority of Maine for electric rate stabilization projects from the \$200,000,000 proposed in the bill to \$220,000,000. It also increases the amount of bond proceeds that may be used to fund capital reserve funds from the \$40,000,000 proposed in the bill to \$44,000,000. This amendment increases the period in which the Public Utilities Commission must issue or deny a certificate approving a utility proposal to enter into an electric rate stabilization agreement from 30 days to 60 days. This amendment makes technical changes and adds a fiscal note.

LD 1459 An Act to Make Changes to the Public Utilities Laws

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KONTOS	OTP-AM	H-307

SUMMARY

This bill is the Public Utilities Commission's 1995 housekeeping bill and makes nonsubstantive changes to laws regulating utilities.

The bill replaces the outdated terms "tariff" and "general order" with "schedule" and "rule," respectively, corrects cross references and replaces references to the now defunct Office of Energy Resources with references to the State Planning Office.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-307) separates 2 relatively unrelated provisions of law into 2 subsections in order to increase clarity.

LD 1473 An Act to Establish the State Telecommunications Network Coordination Commission

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BUSTIN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to establish the State Telecommunications Network Coordination Commission.