

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

**JUNE 1996**

***MEMBERS:***

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

***Rep. Carol A. Kontos, Chair***

***Rep. Herbert Adams***

***Rep. M. Ida Luther***

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***Rep. F. Thomas Gieringer, Jr.***

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***Rep. Robert A. Cameron***

***Rep. John P. Marshall***

***Staff:***

***Amy B. Holland, Legislative Analyst***

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis***

***Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station***

***Augusta, ME 04333***

***(207)287-1670***



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

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**June 1996**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are 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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

**LD 1641**      **An Act to Amend the Maine Sanitary District Enabling Act**      ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CIANCHETTE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1641 proposed to provide a method for the board of trustees or the residents of a sanitary district to initiate the dissolution of the sanitary district. It proposed to require the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to oversee the trustees in the winding up of the affairs of a dissolved district.

**LD 1668**      **An Act to Protect Sources of Drinking Water in the Towns of Searsport, Stockton Springs and Prospect**      ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POVICH	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP      MAJ OTP-AM      MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1668 proposed to amend the charter of the Searsport Water District as follows: to provide that, unless specifically permitted by law, the district may not provide service to any entity located outside the district to which it is not providing service on July 1, 1995; to require that any new debt incurred by the district after July 1, 1995 must be approved by a majority of the legal voters, voting in a special election, within all towns in which the district provides service; to require the district to undertake all reasonable and necessary measures to protect the water quality of Half Moon Pond and grant authority to the district to regulate body contact with and the use of engines in or on Half Moon Pond; and to require the towns of Searsport and Prospect to take all reasonable measures to preserve the water quality of Half Moon Pond.

LD 1668 also proposed to expand the territory of the Searsport Water District to include the Town of Stockton Springs, subject to referendum approval in the Town of Stockton Springs, and to add 2 new trustees to the district board to be appointed by the municipal officers of the Town of Stockton Springs. It proposed to provide for a transition for adding the 2 new trustees to the district's board.

It also proposed to provide that property in the Town of Stockton Springs may be taken to pay, in the case of default by the district, district debts only if the debt is incurred after the inclusion of the Town of Stockton Springs in the district.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-742)** is the minority report. It replaced the bill and proposed to prohibit the Searsport Water District and the Town of Searsport and the Town of Prospect from undertaking any activity that would contribute to the degradation of the purity of the water of, and the watershed affecting, Half Moon Pond.

The amendment also proposed to provide that, unless specifically permitted by law, the district could not provide service to any entity located outside the Town of Searsport and the Town of Stockton Springs if it was not providing service to that entity on July 1, 1996. (Not adopted)