

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

Rep. Conrad Heeschen

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Rep. John P. Marshall

Staff:

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**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 & 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 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 1752 **An Act to Merge the Charter of the Jackman Water and Sewer Districts** ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DEXTER MILLS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1752 proposed to combine the Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District.

LD 1768 **An Act to Standardize the Creation of Water Districts** PUBLIC 616

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-811
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LD 1768 is the product of a legislative staff study conducted by the staff of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. LD 1768 proposed to standardize the creation of water districts by providing enabling legislation that would define the core powers and duties of new water districts, which would be incorporated by reference in new charters.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-811) proposed to make a number of technical and substantive changes to the bill, including clarifying the intent of the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 616 establishes standard provisions in statute that may be incorporated by reference in the charters of new water districts. The standard provisions, which are not mandatory, include the following: powers of standard districts; authority to acquire property; eminent domain; trustee selection; trustee compensation; organization; district debt; tax exemption; and rates.

The law also clarifies and consolidates statutory provisions related to water districts.

LD 1783 **An Act to Repeal the Sunset and Reporting Requirements Regarding Transportation of Unscheduled Freight in Casco Bay** PUBLIC 559

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ADAMS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1783 proposed to repeal the sunset and reporting requirements relating to the transportation of unscheduled freight in Casco Bay contained in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 5111.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 559 repeals the sunset and reporting requirements relating to the transportation of unscheduled freight in Casco Bay.