

# 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. 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 1793      An Act to Extend the Electric Rate Stabilization Projects**

PUBLIC 698  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
KIEFFER

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-458

LD 1793 proposed to extend from February 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which certificates of approval for electric rate stabilization projects may be issued by the Public Utilities Commission and from May 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which the Finance Authority of Maine may make loans for electric rate stabilization projects.

It also proposed to require the Finance Authority of Maine and the Public Utilities Commission to each make an additional report to the Legislature regarding electric rate stabilization project loans and agreements.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-458)** proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 698 extends from February 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which certificates of approval for electric rate stabilization projects may be issued by the Public Utilities Commission and from May 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which the Finance Authority of Maine may make loans for electric rate stabilization projects. It also requires the Finance Authority of Maine and the Public Utilities Commission to each make an additional report to the Legislature regarding electric rate stabilization project loans and agreements.

Chapter 698 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 1996.

**LD 1816      An Act to Create Uniformity in the Granting of Electric  
and Gas Utility Easements**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
LAWRENCE

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1816 proposed to prohibit natural gas pipelines from taking by eminent domain lands or rights in lands or easements located within 300 feet of an inhabited dwelling.

**LD 1869      An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Madawaska  
Water District**

P & S 75

Sponsor(s)  
AHEARNE  
PARADIS

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-845

LD 1869 proposed to increase the debt limit of the Madawaska Water District and to replace archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-845)** replaced the bill and proposed to permit the Madawaska Water District to issue, through its trustees, notes and bonds to an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000 without obtaining the approval of the voters for a higher debt limit. It also proposed specific procedures for establishing a higher debt limit through a local referendum.

The amendment also proposed to replace archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 75 permits the Madawaska Water District to issue, through its trustees, notes and bonds to an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000 without obtaining the approval of the voters for a higher debt limit and specifies procedures for establishing a higher debt limit through a local referendum. It also replaces archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

**LD 1877      An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Enhanced 9-1-1      PUBLIC 672**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP      MAJ	
	ONTP      MIN	

LD 1877 is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, reported out pursuant to Public Law 1993, chapter 566, section 10. It proposed to maintain the current 2¢ E-9-1-1 surcharge through July 31, 1996 and to increase the surcharge to 20¢ beginning August 1, 1996. It proposed to sunset the surcharge on August 1, 1998.

LD 1877 also proposed to require the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs regarding expenditures from the E-9-1-1 fund.

It also proposed to establish that any information obtained by a public or private safety agency, including a public safety answering point, for the purpose of providing E-9-1-1 services that reveals the name, address or telephone number of a person placing an E-9-1-1 call is confidential pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph A. The information could be disclosed only to public or private safety agencies for processing emergency calls and providing emergency services and to law enforcement officers for investigating criminal conduct.

LD 1877 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on or before February 1, 1997 on alternative funding mechanisms for the E-9-1-1 system. It also proposed to give authority to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to report out legislation regarding the E-9-1-1 system during the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 118th Legislature.

It also proposed to include an allocation and a fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-535)** proposed to restrict county governments or sheriff's departments that choose to provide E-9-1-1 services that are not provided to all communities in