

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. John J. Cleveland

Sen. Philip E. Harriman

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

LD 224

An Act Regarding Charges Assessed against Owners of Sprinkler Systems

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAMPBELL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 224 proposed to prohibit a water utility from charging customers with private fire protection systems, such as sprinklers, rates to recover the utility's backup capacity costs; the bill proposed to require the rates be based on water usage.

LD 1732

An Act to Provide Choice to Maine's Electricity Customers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAREY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1732 was one of 5 bills introduced in 1997 in the 1st Regular Session that proposed a restructuring of the electric utility industry. One of the bills, LD 1804, was used as the vehicle for restructuring legislation developed by the committee and adopted by the Legislature in 1997 (see summary of LD 1804 in the bill summaries for the 1st Regular and 1st Special Sessions of the 118th); of the other 4 bills, 3 were killed. This bill, LD 1732, was carried forward as a vehicle for dealing with the issue of securitization. Securitization is a financing method proposed by utilities as a means of reducing the overall cost of stranded cost recovery. While this bill was killed, the committee dealt with other restructuring-related issues in other bills (see LDs 1935 and 2285).

LD 1788

An Act to Require Notice to Telephone Subscribers of the Sale or Transfer of an Interexchange Carrier or a Change in Rates

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BUNKER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1788, which was carried forward from 1st Regular and 1st Special Session, proposed to require a provider of interexchange telephone services to notify customers 30 days before a sale or transfer of ownership or a change in rates.