

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

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

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair

Sen. John J. Cleveland

Sen. Philip E. Harriman

Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair

Rep. Carol A. Kontos

Rep. Ronald E. Usher

Rep. Gary O'Neal

Rep. Patrick Colwell

Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere

Rep. Joseph B. Taylor

Rep. Henry L. Joy

Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.

Rep. John W. Vedral

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997**

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. 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:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- 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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY JONES K	OTP-AM	S-84

LD 262 proposed to permit the Public Utilities Commission to exempt certain telephone utilities from the statutory requirement to obtain approval before commencing service if the commission finds that unjust or unreasonable rates will not result from granting the exemption.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-84) proposed the following substantive changes to the bill:

1. To require that any exemption to be established by major substantive rule; and
2. To make explicit the commission's ability to revoke an exemption in whole or in part and to revoke an exemption for a single telephone utility.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 118 permits the Public Utilities Commission by rule to exempt certain telephone utilities from the statutory requirement to obtain approval before commencing service. An exemption may be granted only when the commission finds that unjust or unreasonable rates will not result from granting the exemption. The commission is authorized to revoke an exemption in whole or in part.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JONES K KIEFFER	ONTP	

LD 366 proposed to require telephone utilities to provide every 6 months a notice to customers describing optional low-cost calling plans. The bill also proposed to require telephone utilities, once every 24 months, to provide a statement to each customer of any potential savings for that customer if the customer had subscribed to an optional calling plan.