

# 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:**

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*Sen. John J. Cleveland*

*Sen. Philip E. Harriman*

*Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair*

*Rep. Carol A. Kontos*

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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](http://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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular 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 IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</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>Bill held by Governor</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 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>
BENNETT GAGNE	OTP-AM	S-239

LD 1665 proposed to allow the Hebron Water Company to convert to a nonprofit water company. The bill also proposed to prohibit the district from holding more than \$1,000,000 in property.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-239)** proposed to remove the section of the bill that limited the Hebron Water Company's authority to hold property and to make a technical correction to the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 36 allows the Hebron Water Company to convert to a nonprofit water company.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAREY		

LD 1732 proposes:

1. To introduce retail competition in the electric supply industry on January 1, 2000;
2. To provide for a standard service offer for consumers who do not opt to choose or are unable to choose their own provider;
3. To continue regulation of transmission and distribution companies;
4. To provide certain consumer protections in dealings with both regulated and unregulated electric companies;
5. To provide full recovery of utility stranded costs;
6. To require utilities to separate their generation facilities from their transmission and distribution facilities but to permit utilities to market and sell electric power;
7. To provide assistance to low-income customers;
8. To continue electricity conservation programs;
9. To require all energy providers to have renewable energy sources or buy renewable energy credits; and

10. To provide for securitization of stranded costs.

The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

See LD 1804.

**LD 1770                      An Act to Create the Pleasant River Standard Water District**

**P & S 35  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUNKER CASSIDY	OTP-AM	H-360

LD 1770 proposed to authorize the creation of the Pleasant River Standard Water District. The bill also proposed to repeal the authority for the creation of the Columbia Falls Water District, which was never created.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-360)** proposed to make technical corrections to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 35 authorizes the creation of the Pleasant River Standard Water District and repeals the authority for the creation of Columbia Falls Water District. The law is effective on May 27, 1997 for the purposes of allowing it to be put out for local referendum approval.

**LD 1771                      An Act to Extend the Electric Rate Stabilization Program**

**PUBLIC 492  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS CAREY	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	H-354

LD 1771 proposed to increase the amount of the moral obligation of the State that may be pledged to support electric rate stabilization projects from \$264,000,000 to \$330,000,000.

The bill proposed to expand the group of eligible borrowers to include qualifying facilities that are municipal solid waste facilities financed by industrial development or exempt facility bonds.

The bill proposed to extend from February 1, 1997 to February 1, 1998 the period during which certificates of approval may be issued.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-354)**, the majority report of the committee, proposed to specify that any amendments to rules required to implement the bill are routine technical rules.

***Enacted law summary***