

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:

Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair

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.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 686 alters certain definitions in law to provide that regulations and standards that apply to operating nuclear power plants continue to apply to a plant undergoing decommissioning. The law also

1. Decreases the annual registration fee for a nuclear power plant from \$100,000 to \$25,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 and eliminates the fee thereafter (some or all of this lost revenue will be made up from increased fees administratively imposed on other licensees of the Department of Human Services);
2. Increases the annual fee paid by a nuclear power plant to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory from \$90,000 to \$122,000 in fiscal year 1997-98. These funds will cover costs incurred in the purchase of equipment related to the decommissioning; and
3. Requires the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to reimburse the Department of Environmental Protection for costs incurred by the department related to the decommissioning of the plant, but caps the reimbursement at \$70,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$100,000 in fiscal year 1998-99.

Chapter 686 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 1998.

LD 1985

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Bath Water District

**P & S 64
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAYO SMALL	OTP-AM	H-794

LD 1985 proposed to increase the annual stipend for members of the Board of Trustees of the Bath Water District from \$500 to \$1,200.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-794) proposed to replace the substance of the bill and remove reference in the charter of the Bath Water District to trustee compensation. The methodology for establishing and changing trustee compensation is established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6401, subsection 2 and section 6410, subsection 7. This amendment proposed to remove any confusion created by old residual language in the charter of the Bath Water District relating to trustee compensation that is void pursuant to these provisions of Title 35-A.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 64 removes any confusion created by old residual language in the charter of the Bath Water District relating to trustee compensation that is void pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6401, subsection 2 and section 6410, subsection 7. Chapter 64 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 5, 1998.