

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.

LD 2214

**An Act to Repeal the Laws Governing the Jackman Water District
and the Jackman Sewer District**

P & S 69

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2214 proposed to repeal the laws governing the Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District. The Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District were merged to create the Jackman Utility District pursuant to Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 30. This bill would complete the merger process.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 69 repeals the laws governing the Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District. The Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District were merged to create the Jackman Utility District pursuant to Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 30. This law completes the merger process.

LD 2220

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 301: Rules for
Standard Offer Service, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public
Utilities Commission**

**RESOLVE 100
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-913

LD 2220 provided for legislative review of Chapter 301: Standard Offer Service, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-913) proposed to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its standard offer rule provided the rule were amended to provide that transmission and distribution utilities are held harmless for prudently incurred costs associated with being required to provide standard offer service in the event of a default by a standard offer service provider.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 100 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its standard offer rule provided the rule is amended to provide that transmission and distribution utilities are held harmless for prudently incurred costs associated with being required to provide standard offer service in the event of a default by a standard offer service provider. Chapter 100 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 30, 1998.

LD 2221

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District

P & S 78