

# 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*

*Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair*

*Rep. Carol A. Kontos*

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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](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:

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.

**Senate Amendment "B" (S-613)** proposed to authorize unspent funds in the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund for fiscal year 1996-97 to be carried forward in their entirety for use in fiscal year 1997-98. This provision was in the Supplemental Budget but was moved into this bill when it was determined that the Supplemental Budget would not be passed as an emergency.

This amendment also proposed to reduce by \$50,000 the amount of the allocation to the Office of the Public Advocate proposed in the bill for fiscal year 1998-99.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 719 authorizes unspent funds in the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund for fiscal year 1996-97 to be carried forward in their entirety for use in fiscal year 1997-98 and provides supplemental funding to the Office of the Public Advocate. Chapter 719 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 7, 1998.

**LD 2278**

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Minority of the  
Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy Arising from its  
Government Evaluation Act Review of the Office of the Public  
Advocate**

**DIED IN  
CONCURRENCE**

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

LD 2278, which was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to its Government Evaluation Act review of the Office of the Public Advocate, proposed supplemental funding to the Office of the Public Advocate to fund salary increases for the Public Advocate and the Public Advocate's staff and to cover costs of consultants and expert witnesses to handle cases at the Public Utilities Commission involving electric industry restructuring and at the Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involving issues related to Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant decommissioning. The funding level proposed was \$50,000 less than that proposed in the majority report (see LD 2277). This reduced amount was ultimately adopted by floor amendment to the majority report.

**LD 2285**

**An Act Relating to Electric Industry Restructuring**

**PUBLIC 691  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
		S-617   HARRIMAN

LD 2285, which was reported by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to its authority under Public Law 1997, chapter 316, section 12, proposed the following.