

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

B. With the approval of the Attorney General, a general counsel; and

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

C. An assistant administrative director; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶F, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 110, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3474, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. WWW, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Interconnection ombudsman; fund. The commission shall designate an interconnection ombudsman ~~appointed pursuant to section 107, subsection 1~~ shall to assist persons seeking interconnections governed by rules adopted under subsection 3. The ~~commission shall appoint an~~ interconnection ombudsman ~~who possesses~~ designated by the commission must possess technical expertise related to interconnection and interconnection procedures.

A. The duties of the interconnection ombudsman include but are not limited to:

- (1) Tracking interconnection disputes;
- (2) Facilitating the efficient and fair resolution of disputes between customers seeking to interconnect and investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities;
- (3) Reviewing investor-owned transmission and distribution utility interconnection policies to assess opportunities for reducing interconnection disputes;
- (4) Convening stakeholder groups as necessary to facilitate effective communication between interconnection stakeholders;
- (5) Preparing reports that detail the number, type, resolution timeline and outcome of interconnection disputes; and
- (6) Any other technical or regulatory work involving public utilities.

B. The commission by rule shall establish a fee to be paid by persons seeking interconnections to fund the interconnection ombudsman. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

C. The interconnection ombudsman fund is established within the commission as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes of offsetting costs for interconnection-related activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). The commission shall deposit all fees collected under this subsection into the fund and all money in the fund must be used to fund the interconnection ombudsman. In addition to the fees established in accordance with this subsection, the fund may accept federal money and contributions from private and public sources.

Any activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraph (6) must be funded in accordance with section 116.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 681

S.P. 386 - L.D. 897

An Act Regarding the Nonwires Alternative Process and Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 298, §13, is amended to read:

1. Planning study. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in this State shall annually complete and submit to the commission and to the Office of the Public Advocate, for review by the nonwires alternative coordinator, a planning study for small transmission projects and distribution projects. In completing the planning study, an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall develop and use system planning models. The study must:

- A. Analyze system needs for the next 5 years and provide a schedule of proposed projects and associated costs;
- B. Describe system capacity and load by substation and circuit; and
- C. Identify corresponding planned and anticipated growth-related investments.

After review of a planning study submitted under this subsection, the nonwires alternative coordinator may provide comments or recommendations, which may in-

clude recommendations to achieve the policy goals established in section 3143. An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility may, at its discretion, incorporate recommendations on a planning study made by the nonwires alternative coordinator. Failure to incorporate recommendations made by the nonwires alternative coordinator may not result in a presumption of imprudence.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3132-C, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 298, §14, is amended to read:

4. Recommendations. On the basis of the investigation under subsection 1, the nonwires alternative coordinator shall develop and provide to the commission or to an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, as appropriate, recommendations regarding cost-effective nonwires alternatives to the wires project, including a proposed plan for procurement of the recommended nonwires alternatives. ~~The proposed procurement plan must be that identifies components that are behind the meter or on the grid side of the meter and is consistent with the provisions of section 3132-D.~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3132-C, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3149, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 392, §1, is amended to read:

The commission may not approve a contract for energy resulting from a competitive solicitation conducted by the commission under this Title unless the contract includes a provision that requires the reduction of payments ~~to the bidder under the contract by the stranded costs arising from energy produced~~ absolute value of the applicable negative price multiplied by the energy produced and delivered under the contract during negative price intervals. The commission may grant an exception from the inclusion of such a negative price provision if the bidder demonstrates good cause for the exception and the commission finds that the contract is cost-effective, includes other price protections for ratepayers and will avoid to the maximum extent possible the curtailment of existing renewable resource generators.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 682

H.P. 581 - L.D. 916

An Act to Promote Investment in Housing

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine
as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶GG, as amended by PL 2021, c. 322, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Perform other functions and duties necessary for the proper administration of the credit, including providing any necessary certifications and notices to taxpayers and to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services containing information required by the State Tax Assessor necessary for determining eligibility and the amount of the credit for each taxable year; ~~and.~~

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶GG, as amended by PL 2021, c. 322, §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules;:

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶HH, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 322, §3, is amended to read:

HH. Provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters copies of any reports required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor regarding the administration of the emergency rental assistance programs established by Section 501 of Division N of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and Section 3201(a) of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Copies of any reports required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters no later than 7 days after the reports are submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor. If no such reports are required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor, the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit, beginning January 15, 2022 and annually thereafter, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters a report on any rental assistance distributed by the Maine State Housing Authority; and

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶II is enacted to read:

II. Administer the Middle-income Housing Support Program and Middle-income Housing Support Fund established in subchapter 10-B.

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 10-B is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 10-B

MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM