

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

July 2011

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STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND  
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER* ..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology*

customer service requirements and requirements for accounting of line extension construction costs.

In a letter to the Office of Public Advocate, the committee requested that office to convene a stakeholder meeting to discuss the bill and to present proposed amendments during the next legislative session.

This bill was carried over to any special and/or regular session of the 125th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1180.

### **LD 956      An Act To Improve Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard      ONTP**

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

This bill modifies the portfolio requirements that competitive electricity providers must satisfy in selling electricity in this State. This bill removes all size limits on renewable resources eligible to meet the portfolio requirements. This bill also adds low-carbon-emitting resources to the list of resources that are eligible to meet the portfolio requirements.

The committee did not pass this bill, but through LD 1570, during the same session, directed the Public Utilities Commission to complete an in-depth analysis of the new renewable capacity portfolio standard established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35, section 3210, subsection 3-A.

### **LD 999      An Act Regarding the Public Utilities Commission's Ability To Use      PUBLIC 283** **Certain Funds**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FITTS	OTP-AM	H-437

This bill corrects a statutory oversight regarding the statutory reference to the Public Utilities Commission's ability to use up to \$100,000 from the conservation program fund to promote the green power offer and other green power supply products and renewable energy credit products.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill and eliminates the Public Utilities Commission's authority to use up to \$100,000 per year from the conservation program fund to provide information to consumers regarding renewable energy generated in the State. This amendment permits the commission to use a total of \$100,000 for that purpose during the calendar years 2011 and 2012.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 283 eliminates the Public Utilities Commission's authority to use up to \$100,000 per year from the conservation program fund to provide information to consumers regarding renewable energy generated in the State. Unallocated language permits the commission to use a total of \$100,000 for that purpose during the calendar years 2011 and 2012.