

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2015

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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

LD 650 An Act To Amend the Brunswick Sewer District Charter

P & S 5

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

This bill raises the debt limit of the Brunswick Sewer District from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000, pending a referendum held by November 7, 2017 approving the increase.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 5 raises the debt limit of the Brunswick Sewer District from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000, pending a referendum held by November 7, 2017 approving the increase.

LD 660 An Act To Protect Homeowners from Damage in the Event of a Failure of Public Water Systems

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DECHANT	OTP-AM	H-189

This bill allows a consumer-owned water utility to establish a homeowner protection fund to reimburse a homeowner in the event of a water system failure that causes damage to the homeowner's property. The Public Utilities Commission is required to adopt rules governing the creation and use of such a fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-189)

This amendment replaces the bill, which establishes a homeowner protection fund, and enables contingency allowance funds to be used to reimburse a consumer in the event of a water system failure that causes damage to the consumer's property. This amendment clarifies that the use of contingency funds by a consumer-owned water utility does not waive a utility's immunities or limitations on damages that exist under the Maine Tort Claims Act, any other statute or the common law. This amendment also increases the annual contingency allowance from ten percent to 12 percent for a utility with annual revenues up to \$85,000, and from five percent to seven percent for a utility with total annual revenues in excess of \$85,000.

LD 743 An Act To Protect the Environment and Assist Municipalities with the Recycling, Reuse and Processing of Solid Waste

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to enact measures to support the State's solid waste management hierarchy and provide for the effective and efficient management of solid waste throughout the State by encouraging the conversion of municipal solid waste to electrical energy as a means to minimize the amount of municipal solid waste that is disposed of and stored in landfills.

The bill encourages materials management and conversion of municipal solid waste into electrical energy through the establishment of a net electrical billing process that will have the effect of reducing energy costs to