

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

STAFF:

LUCIA NIXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE, CHAIR
SEN. DAVID R. MIRAMANT
SEN. DAVID WOODSOME

REP. SETH A. BERRY, CHAIR
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. CHRISTINA RILEY
REP. CHRISTOPHER JAMES CAIAZZO
REP. VICTORIA W. DOUDERA
REP. NICOLE GROHOSKI
REP. CHRISTOPHER J. KESSLER
REP. JEFFERY P. HANLEY
REP. CHAD WAYNE GRIGNON
REP. STEVEN D. FOSTER

STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 129th 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.

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 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 68

An Act To Improve the Record Keeping of Utilities and the Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC 26

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARSON B	OTP-AM	S-12

This bill amends the law governing the record-keeping requirements of the Public Utilities Commission. Current law requires that the commission maintain a complete record of proceedings, investigations and formal public hearings. The bill adds the requirement to maintain a record of complaints. It also specifies that the required records be permanently maintained and include results and conclusions, including orders, findings, decisions and settlement agreements. Finally, the bill requires the commission, upon request of a public utility customer, to reconstruct, to the extent possible, the record of a proceeding, investigation, formal public hearing or complaint that was disposed of prior to the requirement that a permanent record be maintained.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)

This amendment makes two changes to the bill. First, it adds a provision to the bill to require public utilities to preserve records of customer complaints for a period of 10 years and to make records of customer complaints readily available to the Public Utilities Commission for examination. Second, the amendment removes the provision of the bill that requires the Public Utilities Commission to reconstruct past records of proceedings, investigations, public hearings and complaints.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 26 amends the law governing the record-keeping requirements of the Public Utilities Commission to add the requirement that the commission maintain records of complaints and to specify that records must be permanently maintained and include results and conclusions, including orders, findings, decisions and settlement agreements. The law also requires public utilities to preserve records of customer complaints for a period of 10 years and to make records of customer complaints readily available to the Public Utilities Commission for examination.

LD 91

An Act To Eliminate Gross Metering

PUBLIC 16

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S WOODSOME D	OTP ONTP	S-4 LAWRENCE M

This bill clarifies the definition of "net energy billing." It requires the Public Utilities Commission, within 60 days of this legislation becoming effective, to amend its net energy billing rules adopted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A to be substantively equivalent to the rules in effect on January 1, 2017. It provides that all customers that entered into a net energy billing arrangement on or after March 29, 2017 are governed by the rules that are to be adopted pursuant to this legislation.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-4)

This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 16 clarifies the definition of "net energy billing." It requires the Public Utilities