

# 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  
129<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**

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

129<sup>TH</sup> 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 129<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. 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 129<sup>th</sup> 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*

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.

**LD 143      An Act To Protect Electric Ratepayers from Gross Output Metering Costs** **Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL B		

This bill prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from requiring a customer to meter the gross output of a facility for net energy billing purposes and from requiring a customer to have a meter installed to measure gross output in order to participate in net energy billing. The bill requires that a net energy billing customer be credited for kilowatt-hours exported from an eligible facility at the total retail rate for electricity. It allows a transmission and distribution utility to collect data on gross output only if a meter to measure gross output was installed prior to the effective date of this legislation. Finally, it requires the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules to conform with the changes made in this legislation within 90 days of the effective date.

**LD 147      An Act To Extend Internet Availability in Rural Maine** **PUBLIC 52 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALLEY R MOORE M	OTP-AM	H-43

This bill provides one-time funding for two years for a program that provides mobile wireless hot spot devices to libraries in Washington County.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-43)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment adds language to the law governing the telecommunications education access fund to:

1. Specify that the use of the fund for Internet access includes mobile Internet access through a portable wireless access point, or hotspot, that provides Internet access over a cellular network; and
2. Add a guideline for allocation of money from the fund to provide, within existing resources, support for qualified libraries in rural areas of the State with greatest need, as determined in consultation with the State Librarian, the Commissioner of Education and the ConnectME Authority, to offer portable wireless access points, or hotspots, for mobile Internet access.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 52 amends the law governing the telecommunications education access fund to:

1. Specify that the use of the fund for Internet access includes mobile Internet access through a portable wireless access point, or hotspot, that provides Internet access over a cellular network; and
2. Add a guideline for allocation of money from the fund to provide, within existing resources, support for

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

qualified libraries in rural areas of the State with greatest need, as determined in consultation with the State Librarian, the Commissioner of Education and the ConnectME Authority, to offer portable wireless access points, or hotspots, for mobile Internet access.

Public Law 2019, chapter 52 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 23, 2019.

**LD 173      An Act To Promote Economic Development and Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREA D CARSON B		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to increase funding to the ConnectME Authority from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to expand universal broadband and high-speed Internet into rural areas identified as the 6% of the State unserved by high-speed Internet. This bill proposes to make expanding high-speed Internet into unserved rural areas a key emphasis in the economic development of and to multiply the return to the State by directing the ConnectME Authority to use the increased funding to increase the rate of strategic broadband investment and leverage additional federal funding to provide middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure in the unserved areas and to correct broadband deficiencies identified in the ConnectME Authority's baseline update of 2013.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 196      Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission      RESOLVE 19 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-75

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)**

This amendment allows for the final adoption of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission, as long as the commission amends the rule to require:

1. Utilities to keep all records required by the rule for 10 years, rather than 6 years; and
2. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to maintain and report the System Average Interruption Duration Index in addition to other metrics required.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 19 allows for the final adoption of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission, as long as the commission amends the rule to require: