

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HOUSING**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 1966 An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 588 requires the Maine State Housing Authority to adopt rules for the administration of its fuel assistance program that require local program operators and administrators to accept online applications for the program beginning no later than the 2022-23 winter season.

Public Law 2021, chapter 588 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2022.

LD 1969 An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 705 does the following.

1. It sets standards for certification, evaluation and decertification of preapprenticeship training programs by the Maine Apprenticeship Program.
2. It requires projects involving the construction of renewable energy generating systems that are at least two megawatts in size and that receive state assistance to meet certain workforce requirements. It defines such projects as “assisted projects.” Specifically, contractors and subcontractors working on an assisted project are required to pay construction workers at least the prevailing rate for wages and benefits, except that they may pay the apprentice rate to apprentices on the project if those apprentices participate in a registered apprenticeship program. It specifies that assisted projects also include requests for bids or proposals that supplement a process started on or before January 1, 2023. It provides for sanctions for violations of the provisions related to assisted projects.
3. It specifies that if the Public Utilities Commission engages in additional procurement of energy or renewable energy credits pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-G, the commission, in determining benefits to the State’s economy, is required to consider whether the Class IA resource has secured a project labor agreement with a labor organization to supply construction workers in all crafts needed for the assisted project where the assisted project is located and whether an entity is employee-owned, including but not limited to an entity that offers employee stock ownership plans or is structured as a worker cooperative.