

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2026

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

LD 32 An Act Regarding the Interconnection Ombudsman Position at the Public Utilities Commission

Public Law 2025, chapter 680 removes the requirement that the interconnection ombudsman be appointed by the Public Utilities Commission and instead requires that the commission designate an interconnection ombudsman. The law also clarifies the activities that may be funded by the interconnection ombudsman fund established within the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 343 An Act to Incorporate the Assessment of Emerging Energy Technologies into the Comprehensive State Energy Plan

Public Law 2025, chapter 558 requires the state energy plan prepared by the Department of Energy Resources to identify and assess emerging energy technologies.

LD 839 An Act to Create the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund

Public Law 2025, chapter 532 establishes the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund within the Public Utilities Commission. The law provides that the fund must be used to reimburse a transmission and distribution utility for any costs incurred as a result of the State's net energy billing programs that would have otherwise been paid by ratepayers. The law requires the commission to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over electricity matters a report that includes information about funds received by the fund and used for reimbursements for any year in which the commission pays reimbursements through the fund. It authorizes the commission to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the law and includes a \$500 appropriation for the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund.

Public Law 2025, chapter 532 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 532 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 897 An Act Regarding the Nonwires Alternative Process and Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission

Public Law 2025, chapter 681 requires an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to submit a planning study for small transmission projects and distribution projects to the Public Utilities Commission in addition to the Office of the Public Advocate. The law also requires the nonwires alternative coordinator to identify in a proposed plan for procurement of the recommended nonwires alternatives whether the components are behind the meter or on the grid side of the meter and allows the commission to adopt rules relating to the nonwires alternatives investigation and recommendations.