

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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.

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Public Law 2025, chapter 681 also changes the requirement for contract provisions governing negative pricing in contracts for energy resulting from competitive solicitations conducted by the commission by requiring the contract to include a provision that requires the reduction of payments under the contract by the absolute value of the applicable negative price multiplied by the energy produced and delivered under the contract.

**LD 1730 An Act to Make Small Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis**

Public Law 2025, chapter 644 excepts from certain requirements the installation and operation of one or more eligible plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems by retail electricity customers for offsetting on-site electricity consumption. The law establishes requirements for plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems to qualify for the exception, including safety standards and capacity limits, and prohibits the use of eligible systems for net energy billing. The law also establishes requirements for the retail customer's installation and removal of such systems on or in a structure the retail customer does not own.

**LD 1850 Resolve, to Improve Interagency Coordination and Information Accessibility Regarding Renewable Energy Construction Projects**

Resolve 2025, chapter 131 directs the Governor's Energy Office to coordinate with state agencies that permit, regulate or provide state assistance to renewable energy construction projects, including, but not limited to, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate how to display and maintain data regarding renewable energy construction projects in an efficient, meaningful and publicly accessible manner for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends in Maine, including through the development of a database. The evaluation must provide a method to make the data publicly available and, to the extent practicable, a method for obtaining information from renewable energy construction developers. The law establishes evaluation criteria that the office must use in conducting the evaluation and requires the office to submit a report on the evaluation to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2026. The committee may report out a bill based on the office's report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 131 was finally passed 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, Resolve 2025, chapter 131 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 131 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to update references to the former Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources, pursuant to Public Law 2025, chapter 476, and to change the date by which the Department of Energy Resources must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having