

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 1964 An Act to Establish Additional Requirements Related to the Sale or Lease of Net Energy Billing Interests and Solar Energy Equipment

Public Law 2025, chapter 575 does the following.

1. It makes misrepresentation as a representative or affiliate of an electric utility or representative or official of a governmental agency or program when selling, offering to sell, leasing, installing or entering into any other financial arrangement regarding an electricity product a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.
2. It clarifies the definition of “merchandise” for the purposes of the laws governing consumer solicitation sales to specify that “merchandise” includes a contract for a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource that has a net energy billing arrangement in the kilowatt-hour credit or commercial and institutional net energy billing program as well as solar energy equipment.
3. It clarifies the definition of “merchandise” for the purposes of the laws governing transient sellers of consumer merchandise to specify that “merchandise” includes a contract for a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource that has a net energy billing arrangement in the kilowatt-hour credit or commercial and institutional net energy billing program as well as solar energy equipment.
4. Beginning June 1, 2026, it requires a person who sells or leases solar energy equipment that is installed on the customer side of the meter to provide a standard written disclosure to a customer prior to a sale or lease. A failure to provide the standard written disclosure as required by the law is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. The Department of Energy Resources must develop two model standard written disclosure forms for the sale and for the lease of solar energy equipment and make the disclosure forms available on the department’s publicly accessible website.
5. By March 1, 2026, it requires each large, investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to annually provide the interconnection ombudsman with the average interconnection costs for the previous calendar year by project size. By May 1, starting in 2026, the interconnection ombudsman must annually publish the average interconnection costs by project size on the Public Utilities Commission’s website.

Public Law 2025, chapter 575 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 19, 2026.

LD 1966 An Act to Increase Disclosure of Utility Charges and Improve Access to Distributed Generation Resources in the State

Public Law 2025, chapter 766 does the following.

1. It requires a transmission and distribution utility with over 50,000 customers to disclose any administrative charges included in a customer bill for work funded directly by that customer.

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If any line item in a customer bill includes an administrative charge, the bill must specifically identify the charge and include a description.

2. It directs the Public Utilities Commission, by rule, to prohibit an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that does not include all expenses that may be recovered in rates in a customer's delivery cost, from labeling such expenses or any combination thereof as public policy charges or a substantially similar term on customer bills. The rules must require the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to label such expenses or combination of expenses in a way that the commission determines is objective and assists customers in understanding these expenses.
3. It directs the commission to adopt rules to establish billing and disclosure standards for distributed generation resources with customers who participate in a net energy billing arrangement based upon shared financial interest. The rules must include standardized methods for presenting savings rates in a clear and consistent manner and require identification of all charges.
4. It requires the commission, by September 1, 2026, to initiate a competitive solicitation to procure up to four megawatts of energy from one or more distributed generation resources. Eligible distributed generation resource projects must have a nameplate capacity of no more than 200 kilowatts; serve only low-income customers and moderate-income households; be wholly owned by its customer or customers or wholly owned by a cooperative corporation; provide discounts or payments to its customers to offset its customers' electricity bills in a manner similar to customers receiving kilowatt-hour credits as determined by the commission; be placed in service on or after August 1, 2026; and be connected to the electric grid of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in the State. The commission must select an eligible project for a contract if at least one bid is received that meets the requirements of the legislation and the bid price does not exceed a certain threshold. Contracts resulting from the procurement may not have a term greater than 20 years and must require the sale of all renewable energy credits generated by the project.
5. It directs the commission to amend rules establishing consumer protections in net energy billing arrangements to create exemptions to the otherwise applicable requirements related to subscription sizing and payments for unused kilowatt-hour credits for certain types of distributed generation resources. The law also directs the commission to amend its rule prohibiting participation in more than one shared financial interest net energy billing agreement per residential account to ensure that it does not apply to net energy billing agreements related to a distributed generation resource in which a customer has an ownership interest.