

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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municipalities for the purpose of procuring electricity on behalf of those customers. Electricity customers are enrolled in the plan on an opt-out basis except for customers participating in net energy billing or a front of the meter distributed energy resource program, customers receiving generation service from a competitive electricity provider and customers receiving low-income assistance. Prior to implementing a community choice aggregation program, the program plan must be approved by the voters in the municipality or municipalities, the legislative body or governing board of each municipality and the Public Utilities Commission. The law establishes requirements for customer notifications and protections and directs the commission to adopt rules to implement the legislation, including rules governing community choice aggregation program approvals, opt-in and opt-out procedures and consumer safeguards. Public Law 2025, chapter 665 also provides that federally recognized Indian tribes in the State may establish community choice aggregation programs.

LD 2140 Resolve, to Establish a Demand Response Program to Lower Electric Bills and Improve Grid Reliability

Resolve 2025, chapter 162 requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish the demand response program to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, and the trust is required to prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers. The trust must assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment.

LD 2153 An Act to Transfer the Responsibilities of the Governor’s Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources

Public Law 2025, chapter 597 transfers the responsibilities of the Governor’s Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources. The law also does the following.

1. It includes the Department of Energy Resources within the list of agencies that are subject to review in accordance with the State Government Evaluation Act.
2. It provides that any All Other balance remaining in the department’s General Fund account at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward for use in the next fiscal year.
3. It requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to consult with the department, instead of the Public Utilities Commission, in establishing rules related to energy efficiency standards for the construction of new or substantially renovated state-owned or state-leased buildings and buildings built with state funds.

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4. It includes the department within the definition of “agency” for the purposes of the Tribal-State Collaboration Act.
5. It requires the department, instead of the Public Utilities Commission, to adopt routine technical rules governing offshore wind energy procurements pursuant to the Maine Wind Energy Act.
6. It expands the definition of “primary storage facility” to specify that it includes a facility that receives petroleum products into the State by rail or truck.
7. It expands the department’s reporting requirement related to shortfalls in supply or anticipated deliveries of home heating oil or kerosene to include all petroleum products.
8. It clarifies the period of time in which the Public Utilities Commission must approve or reject a contract negotiated by the department for a competitive solicitation conducted by the department.
9. It clarifies the circumstances under which the department may share proposals and contract negotiation materials that are otherwise confidential.
10. It directs that certain activities of the Public Utilities Commission related to the carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program are to be undertaken by the Commissioner of Energy Resources.
11. It repeals a provision that directed the State Controller to transfer any unobligated balances related to the coastal zone management program remaining in the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources, Other Special Revenue Funds and federal funds to the Department of Energy Resources.
12. It requires the Department of Energy Resources to review the status of hydropower developments on the St. Croix River by January 1, 2028 and every 5 years thereafter and provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding any significant developments or recommendations.

LD 2203 An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers

Public Law 2025, chapter 640 prohibits a competitive electricity provider from providing to a customer receiving low-income assistance generation service at a rate that is greater than the standard-offer service rate that would otherwise be applicable to that customer. The law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to implement the law which may include, but are not limited to, rules governing the sharing of low-income assistance customer data by a transmission and distribution utility with a competitive electricity provider.