

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
September 27, 2011

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 4, 2012 to May 31, 2012

THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 30, 2012

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2012

ment is located, but only if the following conditions have been met.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 590

H.P. 1387 - L.D. 1875

An Act To Provide Transparency in Electricity Pricing for Maine Ratepayers

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §102, sub-§24 is enacted to read:

24. Zero-based budgeting. "Zero-based budgeting" means a method of budgeting in which programs and activities are justified for a budgetary period using cost-benefit analysis without regard to the amount that was budgeted for those programs and activities in a prior budgetary period.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2007, c. 16, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Committee recommendations; legislative approval of budget. The commission shall submit its budget recommendations, using a zero-based budgeting process or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer, as part of the unified current services budget legislation in accordance with Title 5, sections 1663 to 1666. The commission shall make a presentation of its budget recommendations contained in any current services budget legislation and any supplemental budget legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities matters shall review the commission's recommendations and make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs regarding the budget of the commission, including but not limited to all expenditures from the fund established pursuant to this section. The commission shall make an annual report in accordance with section 120 of its planned expenditures for the year and on its use of funds in the previous year. In addition to the assessments authorized under this section, the commission may also receive other funds as appropriated or allocated by the Legislature.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 1997, c. 424, Pt. B, §5, is further amended to read:

A. The Public Advocate shall submit its budget recommendations, using a zero-based budgeting process or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer, as part of the unified current services budget legislation in accordance with Title 5, sections 1663 to ~~1665~~ 1666. The assessments and expenditures provided in this section are subject to legislative approval. The Public Advocate shall make an annual report of its planned expenditures for the year and on its use of funds in the previous year. The Public Advocate may also receive other funds as appropriated by the Legislature.

Sec. 4. Transparency in electricity rates and assessments. The Public Utilities Commission shall develop information useful to electricity ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on electricity ratepayers. The commission and the Office of the Public Advocate shall post the information on their publicly accessible websites. The commission shall also examine means by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of the information developed and posted by the commission. The commission shall report on its actions under this section together with any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The committee may report out a bill relating to the commission's report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 591

H.P. 1368 - L.D. 1847

An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2012-13

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, prompt determination and certification of the municipal cost components in the Unorganized Territory Tax District are necessary to the establishment of a mill rate and the levy of the Unorganized Territory Educational and Services Tax; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preserva-

tion of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. Municipal cost components for services rendered. In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 115, the Legislature determines that the net municipal cost component for services and reimbursements to be rendered in fiscal year 2012-13 is as follows:

Audit - Fiscal Administration	\$208,111
Education	11,858,597
Forest Fire Protection	150,000
Human Services - General Assistance	58,000
Property Tax Assessment - Operations	900,618
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission - Operations	531,811
TOTAL STATE AGENCIES	\$13,707,137

County Reimbursements for Services:

Aroostook	\$973,192
Franklin	839,845
Hancock	158,145
Kennebec	6,626
Oxford	866,635
Penobscot	976,973
Piscataquis	948,372
Somerset	1,388,233
Washington	835,934
TOTAL COUNTY SERVICES	\$6,993,955
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$20,701,092

COMPUTATION OF ASSESSMENT

Requirements	\$20,701,092
Less Deductions:	
General -	
State Revenue Sharing	\$195,764

Homestead Reimbursement	90,954
Miscellaneous Revenues	150,000
Transfer from undesignated fund balance	2,000,000
TOTAL	\$2,436,718
Educational -	
Land Reserved Trust	\$56,915
Tuition/Travel	101,622
Miscellaneous	20,000
Special - Teacher Retirement	191,943
TOTAL	\$370,480
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$2,807,198
TAX ASSESSMENT	\$17,893,894

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 4, 2012.

CHAPTER 592

S.P. 660 - L.D. 1883

An Act To Clarify the Regulation of Private Natural Gas Pipelines

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4517, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 110, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Affiliated compression or liquefaction facility" means a facility that is used to liquefy or compress natural gas for sale or distribution to others by means other than a pipeline and that is owned or operated by an affiliate of the owner of a private natural gas pipeline.

B. "Private natural gas pipeline" means a pipeline that is used solely for the transport of natural gas to a single customer and is owned by the customer and whose owner or operator is not otherwise