

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 2020 to March 30, 2021

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 28, 2021 to July 19, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 18, 2021

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

Augusta, Maine
2021

corridors over which there are no ongoing rail operations or contracts or agreements providing for operational rights. An evaluation conducted under this section must include the likelihood, benefits and costs of foreseeable restoration of the rail corridor for rail use and interim trail use consistent with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 615.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall submit a report containing the active transportation plan developed under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 18, 2023.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 62

S.P. 465 - L.D. 1415

Resolve, To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Determine Staffing Needs To More Efficiently and Effectively Issue Decisions on New, Amendment and Minor Revision Applications

Sec. 1. Staffing resources determination. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall determine the staffing resources necessary to efficiently and effectively review new permit applications submitted under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 420-D and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, articles 5-A and 6 and to issue decisions on amendment and minor revision applications submitted under those same laws within timetables that are no longer than those established by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 38, section 344-B, subsection 1 for new permit applications submitted under those same laws.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by November 1, 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on the outcome of the staffing resources determination undertaken pursuant to section 1. The committee may report out a bill to the 130th Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 63

H.P. 1237 - L.D. 1666

Resolve, To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Issue a Request for Information on a Statewide, Multiple-use Online Energy Data Platform

Preamble. Whereas, in order to implement comprehensive energy management and efficiency programs, it is necessary to provide customers and other stakeholders with safe, secure access to information about energy usage in homes, businesses and municipalities; and

Whereas, access to energy data is a foundational element for moving the State's natural gas and electric systems to a more efficient paradigm in which empowering customers is a critical element; and

Whereas, by enabling the aggregation of and removal of personally identifiable information from community-level energy data and requiring a consent-driven process for access to or sharing of customer-level energy usage data, as proposed by this legislation, the State can open the door to innovative business applications that will save customers money and allow for better use of the electricity grid and other utility services; and

Whereas, a multiple-use online energy data platform will enable both the private and the public sectors to plan and implement energy programs including energy efficiency, distributed generation, energy storage and transmission and distribution improvements that will help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in accordance with emissions reduction goals established in law; and

Whereas, implementation of a multiple-use online energy data platform is essential to achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by the State and by municipalities; and

Whereas, information about energy usage is currently held by individual utility companies with varying capabilities to share data, directly affecting customer and stakeholder access to quality energy data; and

Whereas, a centralized online energy data platform with defined standards regarding aggregation, data privacy and data security will create administrative and operational efficiencies for all customers and stakeholders involved in the energy sector; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission evaluation of statewide, multiple-use online energy data platform. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall issue a request for information to evaluate the feasibility of the commission's establishing and operating a statewide, multiple-use online energy

data platform, referred to in this section as "the platform," that will provide natural gas and electric utility customers with safe, secure access to information about their energy usage and will allow for the aggregation of and removal of personally identifiable information from community-level energy data. In issuing a request for information on the feasibility of the platform under this section, the commission shall define the relationships among the various categories of data to be included in the platform. The request for information must require that the platform:

1. Consist of a common base of energy data for use in a wide range of applications and business uses;
2. Adhere to specific and well-documented standards for data accuracy, retention, availability, privacy and security;
3. Allow 3rd-party access to customer energy data;
4. Allow for the sharing of individual customer energy data and provide an opt-in option for utility customers when sharing data with 3rd parties;
5. Protect utility customers from unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information and ensure customer privacy rights;
6. Provide for the voluntary participation of consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and municipal power districts; and
7. Meet the requirements for certification from the Green Button Alliance and support the Green Button "Connect My Data" standard and the energy service provider interface of the North American Energy Standards Board.

The request for information must include an evaluation of a platform that would be funded through the assessment of a fee to be collected by utilities on their customers and transferred to the commission. In evaluating the feasibility of establishing and operating the platform, the commission shall require consideration of online energy data platforms being used in other states. After receiving information, the commission shall evaluate whether the creation, operation and management of the platform can be performed by the commission or whether all or part of the creation, management or operation of the platform would need to be performed by a 3rd party. The commission shall allow public comment on the request for information.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 31, 2022, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes the results of the evaluation required under section 1. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 64
S.P. 562 - L.D. 1709

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Examine and Develop a Program Promoting Home Ownership by Reducing Education Debt

Sec. 1. Maine State Housing Authority to examine and develop a program for home ownership by reducing education debt. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority, in consultation with the Finance Authority of Maine, shall examine programs that promote home ownership by reducing borrowers' education debt and shall develop such a program, including statutory language and budgetary requirements, for implementation in the State. In examining such programs, the Maine State Housing Authority, in consultation with the Finance Authority of Maine, shall consider, but is not limited to considering:

1. The total amount of student loan debt that could be reduced and the average amount of individuals' student loan debt in relation to the average purchase price of a home;
2. The minimum amount of student loan debt an individual must have to qualify to participate in such programs;
3. Whether a program participant is required to pay off any remaining student loan debt;
4. The financial process for reducing student loan debt through the purchase of a home;
5. Whether a program participant is required to remain in the home for a certain period of time;
6. A program participant's credit score;
7. The requirements a program participant must meet for assistance in making a down payment; and
8. Any other requirements necessary for a program participant to qualify for assistance with a home mortgage through such programs.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report, including suggested legislation with statutory language and budgetary requirements, with the authority's proposal for a program promoting home ownership by reducing education debt to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters by December 1, 2021. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.
