

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND
ENERGY**

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed; bill died</i>
<i>ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report)</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

This law also directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a stakeholder group to review and make recommendations regarding funding needs and sources for the State Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fund, taking into account the intent to use that fund as a state match for federal funds and to transfer funds from that fund to the Maine Drinking Water Fund and the Maine Clean Water Fund. It requires the departments to report the results of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and authorizes the committee to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

LD 651 **An Act To Amend the Wind Energy Rebate Program Eligibility Requirements**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROWNE SHERMAN	ONTP	

This bill makes changes to the eligibility requirements and rebate levels for wind energy system rebates under the solar and wind energy rebate program. The bill establishes the rebate amount for wind energy systems in statute as an increasing function of the kilowatt capacity of the wind energy system and the classification of the wind resource at the site of the installation. The bill also amends the law to require that the wind energy system be installed by a factory trained or approved installer under the supervision of a master electrician.

The bill places certain limitations on the eligibility requirements that the Public Utilities Commission may establish for wind energy rebates under the program. Specifically, the bill: prohibits the commission from requiring a residential applicant to demonstrate a minimum wind speed of 9.8 miles per hour or more at the site; prohibits the commission from requiring a minimum tower height for the wind energy system installation; establishes 20 feet as the minimum allowed distance between the wind energy system's blade and any structure or trees within a 200-foot radius; and requires the applicant for the rebate to enter into a net energy billing agreement with the transmission and distribution utility.

LD 717 **An Act To Ensure Proper Oversight of Propane Facilities**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FITTS	ONTP	

This bill removes the oversight of certain propane facilities from the Public Utilities Commission and places the oversight of such facilities under the jurisdiction of the Propane and Natural Gas Board.

LD 764 **An Act To Allow Municipalities To Offer Access to the Internet through Digital Subscriber Lines**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO GOOLEY	ONTP	