

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND  
ENERGY**

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## 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 124<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> 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*

Public Law 2009, chapter 66 exempts a telephone utility from the requirement to obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission for a special contract and changes in the rates under such a contract, when that utility has been granted an exemption from the requirement to file rate schedules or terms and conditions, or tariffs, with the commission. The exemption from the special contract approval requirement is limited to the same extent of the exemption from the tariff filing requirement. This means that if a telephone utility has some services exempt from tariff filing, it is only exempt from the special contract approval requirement for those specific services.

**LD 792      Resolve, Regarding On-bill Financing Programs for Energy Efficiency**

**RESOLVE 49**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM	S-111

This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop on-bill financing programs for energy efficiency improvements for small businesses. The bill also authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to implement on-bill financing programs for small business customers. On-bill financing is a method by which energy efficiency improvements are financed through the monthly electricity bill at 0% interest.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-111)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to examine options for establishing an on-bill financing program for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency measures and energy-efficient technologies by small businesses. The amendment also authorizes the commission to consider on-bill financing programs for residential electricity customers. The amendment requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding on-bill financing to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 15, 2010, and it authorizes the committee to submit legislation concerning this subject to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2009, chapter 49 directs the Public Utilities Commission to examine options for establishing an on-bill financing program for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency measures and energy-efficient technologies by small businesses and authorizes the commission to consider on-bill financing programs for residential electricity customers. The resolve requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding on-bill financing to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by January 15, 2010, and it authorizes the committee to submit legislation concerning this subject to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

**LD 844      An Act To Reduce Costs for Customers of Northern Maine  
Consumer-owned Utilities**

**PUBLIC 108**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEARY COURTNEY	OTP-AM	H-85

Under current law a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility (COU) may sale retail generation service in its own service territory. A COU, however, may not sell wholesale generation service except for incidental sales