

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:

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 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

LD 994 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Milo Water District

P & S 10

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH D	OTP	

This bill changes the territory of the Milo Water District to include the whole town of Milo.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 10 changes the territory of the Milo Water District to include the whole town of Milo.

LD 1012 Resolve, Directing the ConnectME Authority To Create the Broadband Strategy Council

**RESOLVE 108
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL HOBBINS	OTP-AM	H-229

The bill establishes the Maine Broadband Commission to advise the University of Maine System on the issue of the transition of the broadband spectrum from analog to digital and to lease or sell excess broadband capacity resulting from the conversion. The bill requires the commission to negotiate and to enter into lease or sales agreements with service providers and ensure the leases and sales potentials and revenues are fully realized for the benefit of the educational system and the State and to work to the goal of broadband access for everyone in the State.

This bill directs the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to ascertain, in consultation with appropriate entities, the maximum funds available from the federal stimulus plan to carry out the purposes of this bill.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-229)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the ConnectME Authority to establish the Broadband Strategy Council to advise the authority on all matters pertaining to broadband opportunities available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as well as advise the University of Maine System with respect to matters pertaining to the lease or sale of excess broadband capacity as a result of the conversion of the educational broadband spectrum from analog to digital. The amendment specifies that the Broadband Strategy Council consists of 11 members, including 2 members of the Senate and 3 members of the House of Representatives, and is staffed by the ConnectME Authority. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 108 directs the ConnectME Authority to establish the Broadband Strategy Council to advise the authority on all matters pertaining to broadband opportunities available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as well as advise the University of Maine System with respect to matters pertaining to the lease or sale of excess broadband capacity as a result of the conversion of the educational broadband spectrum from analog to digital. The resolve specifies that the Broadband Strategy Council consists of 11 members, including 2 members of the Senate and 3 members of the House of Representatives, and is staffed by the ConnectME Authority.

Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

Resolve 2009, chapter 108 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 9, 2009.

LD 1030 An Act Establishing a Wind and Solar Energy Loan Guarantee Program

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M BRYANT B	ONTP	

This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to implement the Domestic Wind and Solar Energy Loan Guarantee Program and the associated Domestic Wind and Solar Energy Fund, which is a revolving fund account. The program is established to guarantee loans originated and held privately for the purposes of acquiring wind and solar power generation equipment. The loan guarantee must be secured by the equipment purchased with the loan. Residential and small commercial projects may be granted a loan under the program and specific qualifications for the program must be established by the commission by rule. Under the bill, an applicant for a loan guarantee for solar equipment must submit a comprehensive energy audit and an applicant for a loan guarantee for wind equipment must submit reliability and capacity test results of wind power potential.

LD 1044 Resolve, To Promote Cogeneration of Energy at Maine Sawmills

RESOLVE 81

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FLETCHER SMITH D	OTP-AM	H-302

This bill allows a group of manufacturing facilities, including at least one sawmill, to petition the Public Utilities Commission to designate the area surrounding the facilities as a Pine Tree Energy Zone. Within a designated Pine Tree Energy Zone, the bill provides an exemption from the statutory requirements for the construction of transmission lines in the public way for a person who constructs a private transmission line to transmit electricity generated by a cogeneration facility located at a sawmill in the zone. The bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules governing net energy billing to allow sawmills located in Pine Tree Energy Zones to elect net energy billing for a cogeneration facility with an installed capacity of up to 10 megawatts.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-302)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Executive Department, Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security to convene a stakeholder group to examine and make recommendations regarding the concept of cogeneration energy zones, which are described as designated geographic areas including a sawmill with an on-site cogeneration facility. The amendment requires the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than February 15, 2010 regarding the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group. After receipt and review of the report, the committee is authorized to report out legislation on the subject of cogeneration energy zones to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 81 directs the Executive Department, Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security to convene a stakeholder group to examine and make recommendations regarding the concept of cogeneration energy zones, which are described as designated geographic areas including a sawmill with an on-site cogeneration