

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 1430 An Act To Ensure Electric Capacity To Serve Maine Consumers

Carried Over

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

This bill amends the laws governing electric utilities to define "capacity resource" to include distributed generation resource. It specifies that determinations relating to capability responsibility, which is defined in the bill as the amount of electric generation capacity required to meet the needs of electricity users within the State, must be made by the State. It establishes a goal of supporting the integrated use of demand response programs and distributed generation resources in order to fulfill the State's capability responsibility. Finally, it amends the law to require, rather than permit, the Public Utilities Commission to enter into contracts for interruptible, demand response or energy efficiency capacity resources.

LD 1430 was carried over to any special or regular session of the 124th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order H.P. 1053.

LD 1450 An Act To Establish the Renewable Energy Resources Program

ONTP

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

This bill creates Title 35-A, Chapter 36, Renewable Energy Resources. The bill requires Public Utilities Commission to establish by rule a renewable energy resources program to encourage the rapid and sustainable development of renewable energy resources and technology for environmentally healthy generation of electricity. The bill defines an eligible electric generator under the program as a generator that contributes no net carbon addition to the atmosphere, generates electricity from certain specified renewable resources, has a maximum generating capacity of 20 megawatts and is majority owned by person owning less than 20 megawatts of generating capacity in the state.

The bill requires the commission to create a standard contract for the purchase of electricity from an eligible electric generator by a grid operator. Under the bill, upon request of an eligible electric generator, a grid operator must enter power purchase agreement using the standard contract to purchase all electricity from that generator for at least 20 years. The bill requires the commission to set the rates paid to eligible electric generators for electricity under the standard contract and establishes additive incentive premiums to be paid in addition to the established rates. It requires the commission to establish a surcharge that must be imposed on all electricity customers sufficient to pay the costs of electricity purchased from eligible electric generators and interconnection costs.

The bill requires the commission to review rates paid under the program every two years and make adjustments as necessary and to report on the program to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2010, January 1, 2011, and every four years thereafter.