

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the Second 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 Second 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:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 HOUSES</i> .....                      | <i>House &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....                              | <i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 Second Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Monday, July 12, 2010. 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

Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters, by January 15, 2012, regarding long-term contracts for capacity resources that have been implemented, including the number, types and lengths of contracts.

This law defines "heating fuel" and "liquid fossil fuel" for purposes of the targets of the triennial plan of the Efficiency Maine Trust and requires that the plan specify the appropriate participation of the State in national and regional carbon markets. It also amends the laws governing the administration by the trust of certain federally funded energy programs.

This law specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not increase assessments on transmission and distribution utilities to realize energy efficiency and demand response resources until the Legislature has approved the budget of the Efficiency Maine Trust, and it requires the commission to present to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities matters any recommended increases in the assessment following the approval of the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan or any annual update plan.

It directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to convene a working group to examine options regarding the participation of electricity customers receiving service at transmission and subtransmission levels in the energy efficiency programs of the trust, particularly those programs funded by assessments on transmission and distribution utilities. It requires the trust to submit a report of the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by January 31, 2011.

Public Law 2009, chapter 518 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 17, 2010.

### **LD 1652** An Act To Provide More Information to the Public Advocate

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HOBBINS           | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill authorizes the Public Advocate to make written information requests of utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission on any matter related to the rates, charges, tariffs, books or service quality of the utility. The utility has a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days, in which to respond to the inquiries. If the utility refuses to respond, the Public Advocate may request enforcement by the Public Utilities Commission.

### **LD 1660** An Act To Reallocate Funds for a Position at the Public Utilities Commission

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HOBBINS           | ONTP                    |                           |

This bill reallocates funds for a Staff Accountant position at the Public Utilities Commission. Funds for this position are allocated from the Public Utilities - Administrative Division program and the Emergency Services Communication Bureau program. The reallocations proposed by this bill were included in the Supplemental Budget, LD 1671.