

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES
AND TECHNOLOGY**

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

- 3. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to allow a person injured by a gas explosion event or who suffered property damage an opportunity to address the commission in a proceeding concerning the gas explosion event;
- 4. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, in any final order regarding the application of administrative penalties to benefit any person affected or potentially affected by the underlying violation, to make specific findings of fact supporting the commission's decision, including findings supporting any amount the commission decides to apply as well as findings supporting any denial of a request or portion of a request for an application of the penalties to benefit a person affected or potentially affected by the violation; and
- 5. Directs the Public Utilities Commission, in determining whether to apply any administrative penalties relating to the gas explosion event to benefit customers affected or potentially affected by the violation, and in determining the amount to apply, to consider documented property losses suffered by a person as a result of the event and allows the commission to apply an amount to equitably compensate the person for losses not otherwise fully compensated.

LD 241 An Act To Promote Energy Independence and Renewable Energy ONTP
Production

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

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to accept all renewable resources electricity, as defined in Maine Revised Statute, Title 35-A, section 3210 located in this state, into the standard-offer service provided to customers not located within the New England independent system operator control area. The renewable resources electricity is required to meet reasonable terms and conditions established by the commission by rule or order. In establishing the terms and conditions the commission must ensure that charges to customers for standard-offer service are not increased as a result of the inclusion of those renewable resources. The committee voted this bill ought-not-pass and voted to send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission expressing concerns over reliability in the Northern Maine Independent System Operator territory.

LD 243 An Act To Ensure Emergency Communications for Persons with PUBLIC 173
Disabilities

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WEBSTER THIBODEAU	OTP	

This bill adds telecoil technology to the types of specialized customer communications equipment that may be made available by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to low-income deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened or speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities to provide or facilitate emergency alert notifications.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 173 adds telecoil technology to the types of specialized customer communications equipment that may be made available by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to low-income deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened or speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities to provide or facilitate emergency alert notifications.