

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

2. Requires the Public Advocate, when taking a position on any matter in any proceeding or forum, to exercise independent judgment to ensure the position is consistent with the requirements of the law governing the Public Advocate and promotes stabilization and lowering of prices paid by those members of the using and consuming public whose interests the Public Advocate is representing; and
3. Repeals the Railroad Crossing Information Council, on which the Public Advocate serves. The council serves as a repository of information concerning the establishment or maintenance of private railroad crossings and provides information and assistance to persons regarding private crossings of railroads.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 79:

1. Authorizes the Public Advocate to represent and promote the interests of the using and consuming public in appropriate proceedings of the Legislature and in regional or national forums, including but not limited to any proceeding of an independent system operator or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
2. Requires the Public Advocate, when taking a position on any matter in any proceeding or forum, to exercise independent judgment to ensure the position is consistent with the requirements of the law governing the Public Advocate and promotes stabilization and lowering of prices paid by those members of the using and consuming public whose interests the Public Advocate is representing; and
3. Repeals the Railroad Crossing Information Council, on which the Public Advocate serves. The council serves as a repository of information concerning the establishment or maintenance of private railroad crossings and provides information and assistance to persons regarding private crossings of railroads.

LD 431

An Act To Require the Efficiency Maine Trust To More Effectively Administer Funds

PUBLIC 84

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THIBODEAU	OTP-AM	S-47

This bill:

1. Prohibits the Efficiency Maine Trust from expending state funds on any energy efficiency or renewable energy program or project for a consumer that will result in any greater costs to that consumer; and
2. Modifies the definition of "energy savings improvement" under the PACE program to include an upgrade of any heating equipment that will result in increased energy efficiency.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-47)

This amendment strikes that part of the bill that prohibited the Efficiency Maine Trust from expending state funds on any energy efficiency or renewable energy program or project for a consumer that will result in any greater costs to that consumer and amends the definition of "energy savings improvement" under the PACE Act to clarify that the term includes heating equipment that meets or exceeds standards established or approved by the trust.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, Chapter 84 amends the definition of "energy savings improvement" under the PACE Act to clarify that the term includes heating equipment that meets or exceeds standards established or approved by the trust.