

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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STAFF:

JEAN GUZZETTI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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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

LD 711

An Act To Regulate Noise from Wind Turbines in Residential Developments

ONTP

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

Current law prohibits the regulation of noise from residential developments under the site location of development laws. This bill allows such regulation for noise from wind turbines and makes it retroactive to 2006.

The committee considered 14 bills related to wind energy development during the first regular session of the 125th legislature. The committee voted all of the wind energy bills, except LD 1366 An Act to Update the Maine Wind Energy Act to Include Low-emission Energy, ought-not-to-pass. The committee amendment to LD 1366 was used as a vehicle to address many of the wind energy issues brought forward in the other bills.

LD 729

An Act To Ensure Ratepayer Benefits from Long-term Contracts for Renewable Energy Credits

PUBLIC 273

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMAS	OTP-AM	S-193

This bill rescinds the Public Utilities Commission's authority to direct transmission and distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts. It also corrects cross references. The title was "An Act to Prohibit Electric Utilities from Entering into Long-term Supply Agreements."

Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)

This amendment amends the long-term contracting law to require that the price paid by the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility for the renewable energy credits be lower than the price received for those renewable energy credits at the time they are sold by the transmission and distribution utility. It repeals the condition that the Public Utilities Commission cannot direct an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract until after major substantive rules are finally adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 273 amends the long-term contracting law to require that the price paid by the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility for renewable energy credits be lower than the price received for those renewable energy credits at the time they are sold by the transmission and distribution utility. It repeals the condition that the Public Utilities Commission cannot direct an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract until after major substantive rules are finally adopted.