

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE**  
125<sup>TH</sup> 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

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU, CHAIR  
SEN. CHRISTOPHER W. RECTOR  
SEN. PHILIP L. BARTLETT II

REP. STACEY ALLEN FITTS, CHAIR  
REP. JAMES M. HAMPER  
REP. DEAN A. CRAY  
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY  
REP. AARON F. LIBBY  
REP. JON HINCK  
REP. ALEXANDER CORNELL DU HOUX  
REP. ROBERTA B. BEAVERS  
REP. MARK N. DION  
REP. LOUIS J. LUCHINI

**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

STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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*

independent finding that a transmission line is needed for reliability.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2011, chapter 281 corrects a conflict that was created by Public Laws 2009, chapter 615 and chapter 655 by incorporating the changes made by both chaptered laws, which was the majority report of the committee.

**LD 865      An Act To Require the Department of Environmental Protection To Enforce Standards for Smaller-scale Wind Energy Development in Organized Areas      ONTP**

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

This bill requires that the Department of Environmental Protection enforce the standards concerning siting considerations for smaller-scale wind energy development in organized areas.

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 870      An Act To Examine Electric Utility Regulation and Fees To Reduce Rates      ONTP**

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

This bill establishes the Electric Rate Evaluation Council to conduct a review of electric industry costs that go into the determination of electric rates and make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters for repeal of any taxes, fees or regulatory provisions that are not justified.

The bill was voted unanimously ought-not-to-pass. A letter was sent to the director of the Office of Energy Independence and Security, requesting that the office post information on its website regarding the components of an electricity bill and factors that potentially influence electricity costs. The letter also requested that the same information be placed on the Office of Public Advocate website.

**LD 890      An Act To Create the Anson and Madison Water District      P & S 6 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CURTIS WHITTEMORE	OTP-AM	H-116