

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. Authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue revenue obligation securities relating to energy distribution system projects under the program limits currently established in law for electric rate stabilization projects and provides that loans for energy distribution system projects may not exceed the limits established annually by the authority;
3. Establishes standards under which the Finance Authority of Maine may approve providing financial assistance to energy distribution system projects; and
4. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, upon request of the Finance Authority of Maine, to provide assistance in analyzing financial, economic or technical issues relating to projects regulated by the commission. At the request of the commission, the Finance Authority of Maine must assess the applicant a fee to reimburse the commission for any costs incurred by the commission that cannot be absorbed within its existing resources.

LD 1112 An Act To Improve Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CORNELL DU HOUX MASON	ONTP	

This bill applies a 150% renewable energy credit multiplier to energy produced by efficient resources as defined under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph A.

LD 1158 An Act To Change the Regulation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Distribution Facilities ONTP

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

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt major substantive rules regarding safety jurisdiction over certain gas utilities in conjunction with the Maine Fuel Board. Until those rules are adopted, the commission may not adopt or enforce rules that are more stringent than the requirements of federal law and regulations.

See LD 908.

LD 1170 An Act To Establish a Code of Ethics for Individuals Involved in Grid-scale Wind Energy Development ONTP

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

This bill directs the Attorney General to develop through rulemaking a wind energy development code of ethics to prohibit inappropriate communications and interactions between municipal, county or state officials and wind