

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 1382

An Act To Protect Homeowners Regarding Sewer Liens

ONTP

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

This bill prohibits a sanitary district enforcing a lien for unpaid assessments on land that is occupied by a person other than the owner. The treasurer of the district may bring a civil action against the person occupying the land to recover the unpaid assessments.

LD 1396

An Act To Require a Transmission and Distribution Utility To Provide Safeguards to Consumers Prior To Installing Wireless Smart Meters

**MAJORITY
(ONTP) REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOLAND SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

This bill amends the State's smart grid policy to include consideration of customer rights. This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding when a transmission and distribution utility is going to install a wireless smart meter. The proceeding must provide for opt-out provisions and wired smart meter alternatives, protection from unreasonable fees or rate increases and protection of customer data, including name, address, telephone number, electricity use and payment information. This bill requires the commission to take similar action to protect a customer that had a wireless smart meter installed prior to the effective date of this Act.

During the session, the commission had a number of open dockets regarding smart meters. The commission issued an order regarding the removal of smart meters or opting out of smart meter installation. See Public Utilities Commission docket 2010-345. Also see LD 756 which was related to smart meters and enacted during the First Regular Session of the 125th legislature.

LD 1411

An Act To Facilitate Transparency and Accountability while Reducing Electricity Costs

ONTP

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

This bill requires the Public Advocate to issue a monthly report regarding the performance of electricity generators, including but not limited to output, capacity factors, price of electricity generated and carbon dioxide emissions. The bill prohibits the construction of a new electricity generator unless the Public Advocate determines that the construction of the generator will result in reduced electricity costs for consumers in this State or the Public Utilities Commission issues a certificate of emergency.