

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

June 2012

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# STATE OF MAINE

125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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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 Second 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.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ...	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, August 30, 2012. 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**

alternative energy resources.

7. It authorizes transmission and distribution utilities to develop and implement pilot programs to measure the effectiveness of electric heat pumps and electric thermal storage units. The pilot programs are subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Commission. Each transmission and distribution utility may provide up to 500 heating units within its service territory. It also directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by March 31, 2013, on its findings and recommendations relating to efficient heating options for residential and small business consumers.

8. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to ensure its natural gas conservation programs benefit the consumers served by the gas utilities assessed under the natural gas conservation programs. It also directs the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security or its successor to assess the trust's effectiveness in delivering these programs.

**LD 1872      An Act To Change the Name of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security      ONTP**

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

This bill changes the name of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security to the Governor's Energy Office. The bill also fixes cross-references to reflect the name change.

The changes proposed by this bill were also proposed, along with changes regarding funding for the office, in LD 1903, An Act To Make Additional Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013. The Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee voted ONTP on this bill and sent a letter to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee recommending that in LD 1903 the name of the office be changed as proposed. The committee also recommended that the initial funding source for the office should be federal funds, including funds of the State Energy Program, which currently support the office; to the extent these are inadequate to fund the office, the office should be able to receive funds from Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT), but only to the extent activities of the office reasonably relate to the purposes of EMT; any additional funding needs of the office should be paid for from the General Fund or other available resources.

See LD 1903.

**LD 1875      An Act To Provide Transparency in Electricity Pricing for Maine Ratepayers      PUBLIC 590**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FITTS	OTP-AM	H-827

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocate to submit their budget recommendations as part of the unified current services budget legislation using a zero-based budgeting process; requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocate to post a "detailed explanation" of the total impact to ratepayers in dollars per year of all components of rates and price, including supply and transmission and distribution charges and all additional state and federal charges and assessments; and requires transmission and distribution utilities to