

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

STAFF:

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

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th 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 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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 94 An Act To Prohibit Wireless Smart Meter Opt-out Fees

INDEF PP

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

This bill was acted upon without reference to committee.

This bill prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from charging a customer a fee or a higher rate for declining the installation of a wireless smart meter or using a meter other than a wireless smart meter.

The concepts raised in this bill are addressed in LD 826, An Act to Eliminate the Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters. LD 826 was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

LD 114 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Portland Water District

ONTP

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

This bill requires the Portland Water District to charge the same rate for the use of water to its customers that reside in the Town of Standish as it charges its customers that reside in towns that are part of the territory supplied by the district and members of the district.

LD 131 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Examine Measures To Mitigate the Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances and Electromagnetic Pulse on the State's Transmission System

**RESOLVE 45
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOLAND PATRICK	OTP-AM	H-121

This bill requires a person submitting a petition to the Public Utilities Commission for the purposes of receiving a certificate of public convenience and necessity for building a transmission line to include a description of design measures to be used that limit electromagnetic field levels and ensure the protection of the transmission and distribution system against damage from an electromagnetic pulse or a geomagnetic storm. The bill also requires the commission to consider electromagnetic field levels, electromagnetic pulse protections and geomagnetic storm protections when determining the public need for a transmission line.

This bill adds similar requirements for the deciding authority, when determining whether an energy infrastructure proposal is in the long-term interest of the State, to consider electromagnetic field levels and electromagnetic pulse and geomagnetic storm dangers.

The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection and within six months of the effective date of this Act, to adopt routine technical rules to identify effective design measures to limit electromagnetic field levels and ensure the protection of the transmission and distribution system against damage from an electromagnetic pulse or a geomagnetic storm.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Finally, the bill requires any transmission line currently under construction upon the effective date of the rules to incorporate design measures to limit electromagnetic field levels and ensure the protection of the transmission and distribution system against damage from an electromagnetic pulse or a geomagnetic storm.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-121)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an examination of the vulnerabilities of the State's transmission infrastructure to the potential negative impacts of a geomagnetic disturbance or electromagnetic pulse capable of disabling, disrupting or destroying a transmission and distribution system and to identify potential mitigation measures. The commission is also required to monitor efforts by regional and federal organizations to address this issue and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 20, 2014. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature based on the report. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 45 directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an examination of the vulnerabilities of the State's transmission infrastructure to the potential negative impacts of a geomagnetic disturbance or electromagnetic pulse capable of disabling, disrupting or destroying a transmission and distribution system and to identify potential mitigation measures. The commission is also required to monitor efforts by regional and federal organizations to address this issue and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 20, 2014. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature based on the report.

Additionally, the committee sent a letter to the Public Utilities Commission requesting that an interim report be submitted to the committee by June 20, 2013 that contains a preliminary list of the sources that the commission will reference during the study, any pertinent information that the commission would like to share with the committee and a description of the commission's approach or process to complete the full study.

Resolve 2013, chapter 45 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 10, 2013.

LD 175 An Act To Update the Laws Governing Energy Efficiency Building Performance Standards

PUBLIC 120

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEVELAND HOBBINS	OTP-AM	S-47

This bill changes the definition of ASHRAE standards and repeals definitions dealing with the energy efficiency building performance standards to reflect the changes made by the enactment of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

The bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission to repeal rules that established the standards that comprised the Maine Model Building Energy Code.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-47)

This amendment removes the definition of "ASHRAE standards" from the bill and repeals the definition of "ASHRAE Standard 62-2001" in the Energy Efficiency Building Performance Standards Act because the use of terms "ASHRAE standards" and "ASHREA Standard 62-2001" are only in sections of the law proposed to be repealed by this bill.