

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**

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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.

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the same date and time as the Town of Veazie elects its municipal officers and repeals the requirement that the election be held at an annual meeting. This amendment allows the trustees to establish a regular meeting schedule and establishes notice requirements for special and emergency meetings. This amendment authorizes the trustees of the Veazie Sewer District to set the date by which nomination papers must be made available to prospective candidates and the date by which completed nomination papers must be filed. The amendment also establishes a process for the recall of a member of the board of trustees.

Many of the concepts in this amendment were presented as a sponsor's amendment at the public hearing.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 13 amends the territory of the Veazie Sewer District by including all of the Town of Veazie that lies between the Penobscot River and Interstate 95. This bill requires the Veazie Sewer District to conduct the election of its trustees in the same manner and at the same date and time as the Town of Veazie elects its municipal officers and repeals the requirement that the election be held at an annual meeting. This bill allows the trustees to establish a regular meeting schedule and establishes notice requirements for special and emergency meetings. This bill authorizes the trustees of the Veazie Sewer District to set the date by which nomination papers must be made available to prospective candidates and the date by which completed nomination papers must be filed. The bill also establishes a process for the recall of a member of the board of trustees.

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 13 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 24, 2013.

LD 676 Resolve, To Direct the Public Utilities Commission To Review ONTP
Telecommunications Services in Northern Oxford County

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

This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to review telecommunications services in northern Oxford County, including investigating whether there exists an anticompetitive concentration of market share by one or more telecommunications service providers that has resulted in a degradation of service to the customers of the providers.

The committee voted this resolve ought-not-to-pass at the request of the sponsor.

LD 697 An Act To Increase Maine's Energy Competitiveness INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KATZ KRUGER	OTP-AM	S-292

This bill allows transmission and distribution utilities and gas utilities to provide grants and loans, including loans with on-bill financing, for customers converting to alternative energy sources.

The committee incorporated the concepts presented in this bill into LD 1559, An Act to Reduce Energy Costs, Increase Energy Efficiency, Promote Electric System Reliability and Protect the Environment.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-292)

This amendment strikes and replaces the provisions in the bill. The amendment authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to extend the number of customers who may participate in the pilot program for efficient electric heat

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pumps and extend the length of the pilot period, allows more flexibility in the manner in which incentives are provided to customers and clarifies that nothing in the legislation related to the pilot program is intended to limit any currently existing authority of the Public Utilities Commission to establish special rates with respect to customers participating in the pilot program, as long as the costs of the pilot program are recovered only from customers participating in the program.

The committee incorporated the concepts presented in this amendment into LD 1559, An Act to Reduce Energy Costs, Increase Energy Efficiency, Promote Electric System Reliability and Protect the Environment.

LD 774 **Resolve, Regarding a Fire and Police Protocols Pilot Program for E-9-1-1 Call Processing **ONTP****

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

This resolve gives the Public Utilities Commission the authority to conduct pilot programs at public safety answering points to examine the benefits of and resources needed to implement a statewide fire and police protocols program for E-9-1-1 call processing in the State's public safety answering points. The resolve also requires the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters by December 31, 2014 regarding any pilot program conducted. The resolve also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

The committee voted this bill ought-not-to-pass. It sent a letter to the Public Utilities Commission asking for more information on the proposed pilot program and stated that it intends to consider the pilot program in the context of the other bills related to E-9-1-1 and Public Safety Answering Points that the committee voted to carry-over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature. Please see LD 196, An Act Regarding the Implementation of the Quality Assurance Program for Public Safety Answering Points and LD 275 Resolve, To Require the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to Expand the Existing Quality Assurance Program for more information.

LD 795 **An Act To Amend the Net Energy Billing Program To Allow Participation by Certain Municipal Entities **ONTP****

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to amend the net energy billing program established by rule by the Public Utilities Commission to allow a municipal or quasi-municipal entity with a renewable energy facility that generates no more than 800 kilowatts to participate in the program.

The committee voted this bill ought-not-to-pass, but carried over a number of bills related to renewable energy policies and plans to include net energy billing in its consideration of those bills. The bills that the committee carried over are: LD 646, An Act to Remove the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Sources of Energy, LD 1085, An Act to Establish the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff, LD 1252, An Act to Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar and Wind Energy and LD 1278, An Act to Ensure Equitable Support for Long-term Energy Contracts.