

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

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

This bill proposes to strengthen basic telephone service in order to ensure that all consumers have access to a certain minimum level of telecommunications service that is reliable, affordable and adequate to meet the needs of consumers.

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

LD 826 An Act To Eliminate the Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS JACKSON T		

This bill prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from charging a customer a fee or a higher rate for declining the installation or for the removal of a wireless smart meter. If a customer declines the installation of a wireless smart meter, the transmission and distribution utility may decrease the number of times the electromechanical meter is read, but may not read the meter less frequently than once every 12 months, and may establish a rate collection method that is based upon the average electricity consumption of the customer.

This bill 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 827 An Act To Increase Access to Natural Gas ONTP

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

This bill requires a gas utility organized under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 2101 for the purposes named in that section that is authorized to supply gas in a geographic area as of March 1, 2013 but is not serving customers in that area and will not guarantee to serve those customers within 12 months of a request to serve customers in that area to allow another gas utility to interconnect to its existing pipes and requires the gas utility to provide wholesale service to that interconnecting gas utility for the purpose of serving customers in that area.

LD 863 Resolve, To Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Consumer Energy Costs ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the Public Utilities Commission to work together to develop a new regional greenhouse gas initiative offset category for fuel switching and further directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the Public Utilities Commission to promote this category with other regional greenhouse gas initiative states. The Department of Environmental Protection is required to provisionally adopt major substantive rules regarding the offset category and submit them to the Legislature by March 1, 2015.

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.