

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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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

This bill amends the Community-based Renewable Energy Act to remove the requirement that a program participant be located within the service territory of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility with whom it contracts.

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 community-based renewable energy 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.

LD 965 An Act To Improve Maine's Underground Facility Damage Prevention Program CARRIED OVER

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

This bill establishes the Dig Safe Advisory Board, which will collaborate with the Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of improving the protection of underground facilities. The bill also requires that persons who own underground facilities and who are not members of the underground facility damage prevention system register their facilities with the Public Utilities Commission and provide the commission with current 24-hour contact information for purposes of notification regarding excavations.

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 1004 An Act To Clarify Voting Procedures for Standard Water Districts CARRIED OVER

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

This bill clarifies voting procedures for standard water districts. Currently, standard district charters and charter amendments approved by the Legislature and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 6410, 6413 and 6413-A use language to the effect that referendum elections or trustee elections must be conducted in accordance with the laws relating to municipal elections without explicitly stating that the secret ballot method of voting is to be used. This bill clarifies that secret ballot voting in accordance with Title 30-A, section 2528 is the method to be used to enact or amend a standard district charter by referendum, to elect trustees or to establish or amend a debt limit by referendum, even if a municipality in which the standard district is located has not accepted this method of voting.

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).