

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2014

STAFF:

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. JOHN J. CLEVELAND, CHAIR
SEN. TROY DALE JACKSON
SEN. EDWARD M. YOUNGBLOOD

REP. BARRY J. HOBBS, CHAIR
REP. ROBERTA B. BEAVERS
REP. DIANE RUSSELL
REP. SARA GIDEON
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. RYAN D. TIPPING-SPITZ
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY
REP. AARON F. LIBBY
REP. LANCE EVANS HARVELL
REP. MELVIN NEWENDYKE

STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-646)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. This amendment strikes and replaces the bill.

This amendment:

1. Increases the capacity limit of eligible facilities under the net energy billing program from 660 kilowatts to one megawatt;
2. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules requiring investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to compensate customers that generate accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits under the net energy billing program at a value that represents the wholesale value of electricity; and
3. Directs the Public Utilities Commission in consultation with the State's investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, the Efficiency Maine Trust and others to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters by January 7, 2015. The purpose of the report is to identify areas of stress or reliability deficiencies in the transmission and distribution system as early as possible in order to allow sufficient time to plan and implement more cost-effective alternatives to building or upgrading distribution lines to meet reliability needs.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-647)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. This amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission in consultation with the State's investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, the Efficiency Maine Trust and others to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters by January 7, 2015. The purpose of the report is to identify areas of stress or reliability deficiencies in the transmission and distribution system as early as possible in order to allow sufficient time to plan and implement more cost-effective alternatives to building or upgrading distribution lines to meet reliability needs.

LD 1085 An Act To Establish the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON C	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a renewable energy resources feed-in tariff program to encourage the rapid and sustainable development of renewable energy resources and technology for environmentally healthy generation of electricity. It requires that utilities purchase renewably produced electricity from all qualified suppliers. It sets the rate that electric utilities must pay for such power. It requires that utilities enter into a standard contract with all renewable energy suppliers for a set term. It establishes for the Public Utilities Commission management and oversight responsibilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-396)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.