

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
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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 establishes the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Authority for the purpose of entering into contracts to procure and resell natural gas pipeline capacity and electric energy and capacity, to identify and designate corridors for the construction of natural gas transmission pipelines and to enter into long-term contracts for the use of natural gas pipeline corridors through the development of natural gas pipelines.

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.

LD 1242 An Act To Dissolve the Anson Water District

**LEAVE TO
WITHDRAW**

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

This bill dissolves the Anson Water District on September 1, 2014.

LD 1243 An Act Regarding Next Generation 9-1-1 and Making Changes in Surcharge Remittance for Certain Telecommunications Service Providers

PUBLIC 119

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

This bill expands the scope of E-9-1-1 services to include emerging communications technologies. This bill changes the E-9-1-1 surcharge remittance period from monthly to quarterly for local exchange telephone utilities, cellular or wireless telecommunications service providers and interconnected voice over Internet protocol service providers whose average monthly surcharge remittance payment for the prior calendar year is less than \$5,000 and allows the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to expend funds on emerging communications technologies.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 119 expands the scope of E-9-1-1 services to include emerging communications technologies. This law changes the E-9-1-1 surcharge remittance period from monthly to quarterly for local exchange telephone utilities, cellular or wireless telecommunications service providers and interconnected voice over Internet protocol service providers whose average monthly surcharge remittance payment for the prior calendar year is less than \$5,000 and allows the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to expend funds on emerging communications technologies.

LD 1251 An Act To Lower Costs to Municipalities and Reduce Energy Consumption through Increased Competition in the Municipal Street Light Market

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NELSON MAZUREK	OTP-AM	H-472

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill requires electricity transmission and distribution utilities to provide 3 options for municipal street lighting programs: the utility-provided services option, the municipally owned, utility-installed option and the municipally owned, installed and maintained option. Under these various options, the bill provides for how a municipality may be charged for the utility infrastructure services provided, how the location of street and area lighting will be provided on the utility poles, at what rates or by what methods the electricity delivery charges may be assessed and how a municipality may transition from one option to another during the course of any year.

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" (H-472)

This amendment strikes and replaces the provisions of the bill. The amendment requires electricity transmission and distribution utilities to provide new options for municipal street lighting programs and provides for how a municipality may be charged for the utility infrastructure services provided, how the location of street and area lighting will be provided, at what rates or by what methods the electricity delivery charges may be assessed and how a municipality may transition from one option to another during the course of any year.

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 1252 An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar and Wind Energy CARRIED OVER

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

This bill reinstates the solar and wind energy rebate program, which provided rebates for the purchase of certain solar and wind energy equipment, until June 30, 2018. The program had expired December 31, 2010. This bill also increases the limit on the total amount of renewable capacity allowed under the community-based renewable energy pilot program from 50 megawatts to 60 megawatts and requires the Public Utilities Commission to reserve 10 megawatts in that program for solar-powered generating systems. The bill increases the limit on the contract price the commission can authorize for eligible solar-power generation and indexes the price limit to the Consumer Price Index. It also extends the repeal date for the Community-based Renewable Energy Act from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2017. The bill requires the commission to submit to the Legislature by January 15, 2014 a report on options for establishing a solar carve-out, or solar set-aside, an amount of energy purchased that must be solar, within the State's renewable portfolio standard.

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 1262 An Act To Reduce Energy Costs ONTP

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

This bill establishes the Energy Cost Reduction Oversight Board.