

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
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

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

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 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.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill gives the Finance Authority of Maine the authority to issue revenue obligation securities to finance an energy cost-reduction contract.

This bill gives the Director of the Governor's Energy Office the authority to submit energy cost-reduction contract proposals to procure natural gas pipeline capacity or to lease the use of property, lands or waters of the State for the purposes of gas, water or electricity transmission corridors to the Energy Cost Reduction Oversight Board and the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

This bill establishes the standards for the Energy Cost Reduction Oversight Board and the Public Utilities Commission to approve an energy cost-reduction contract.

This bill requires the Director of the Governor's Energy Office to notify the Legislature when an energy cost-reduction contract proposal is submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

This bill gives the Public Utilities Commission authority to direct an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, a natural gas utility and a natural gas pipeline utility to assess ratepayers for the cost of an energy cost-reduction contract, the bonds associated with an energy cost-reduction contract and the administration of an energy cost-reduction contract.

This bill establishes the Energy Cost Reduction Trust Fund, to be administered by the Public Utilities Commission, to receive the revenue or profits generated from energy cost-reduction contracts and directs those funds towards initiatives to reduce energy costs for ratepayers.

This bill exempts energy cost-reduction contracts for the resale of natural gas pipeline capacity from the competitive bid requirements of the State Purchasing Agent.

This bill gives the Public Utilities Commission authority to investigate the exercise of market power by a gas utility, natural gas pipeline utility and any person who owns rights to natural gas pipeline capacity.

This bill authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this legislation.

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 1278 An Act To Ensure Equitable Support for Long-term Energy Contracts

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill ensures that consumers of investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the State equitably share in the costs and direct benefits of long-term capacity resource contracts and community-based renewable energy projects. The bill provides that eligible costs and benefits related to these contracts are determined annually based on a forecast and reconciled the following year. The recovery mechanism established in this bill applies to existing long-term contracts and replaces any other recovery mechanism currently in place.

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).