

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
126<sup>TH</sup> 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

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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**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 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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> 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***

This amendment also replaces the appropriations and allocations section in Committee Amendment "A" to effect the changes made in this amendment.

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

**PUBLIC 454**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
YOUNGBLOOD CAMPBELL R	OTP-AM	S-384

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

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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)**

This amendment clarifies that the Act is to apply to investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities rather than all transmission and distribution utilities. The amendment removes the prescriptive requirements of how the benefit and cost mechanism is to be created in order to provide the Public Utilities Commission with the flexibility to identify the best process. This amendment clarifies that the Act is meant to equally distribute the benefits and costs of long-term energy contracts more equitably among those that currently receive the benefits and pay the costs of long-term energy contracts and that it is not intended to make classes or certain bodies of ratepayers who do not currently receive the benefits or pay the costs of long-term energy contracts do so. This amendment removes the 25-megawatt cap under the community-based renewable energy pilot program. This amendment does not change the total 50-megawatt statewide cap.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 454 requires that customers 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. Chapter 454 provides that eligible costs and benefits related to these contracts are determined annually by the Public Utilities Commission. The recovery mechanism established in chapter 454 applies prospectively to existing long-term contracts and replaces any other recovery mechanism currently in place. Chapter 454 is meant to equally distribute the benefits and costs of long-term energy contracts more equitably among those that currently receive the benefits and pay the costs of long-term energy contracts and is not intended to make classes or certain bodies of ratepayers who do not currently receive the benefits or pay the costs of long-term energy contracts do so. Chapter 454 removes the 25-megawatt cap per utility territory under the community-based renewable energy pilot program but does not change the total 50-megawatt statewide cap.

**LD 1323      An Act Regarding Wind Power Siting in the Unorganized Territory**

**Died Between  
Houses**

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