

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**

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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.

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the State and requires the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to amend its rules regarding allowed uses.

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

This amendment was reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

The bill was then 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 1325 *Resolve, To Place a Temporary Suspension on Permitting of Certain Expedited Grid-scale Wind Energy Developments* **ACCEPTED MAJORITY (ONTP) REPORT**

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

This resolve establishes a temporary suspension on the expedited permitting of specified grid-scale wind energy developments and establishes the Panel to Review the Permitting of Expedited Wind Energy Development to review the recommendations of the report issued in March 2012 by the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security entitled "Maine Wind Energy Development Assessment: Report and Recommendations." The panel is directed to evaluate specifically the 25 separate recommendations contained in the report and to develop recommendations regarding implementation of each of the recommendations and to include in its report any recommendations to extend or terminate early the temporary suspension.

LD 1336 *An Act To Dissolve the Lisbon Water Department* **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CRAFTS MASON G	ONTP	

This bill dissolves the Lisbon Water Department.

The committee voted this bill ought-not-to-pass but carried over LD 1396, An Act to Create the Lisbon Water District and intends to include the concepts presented in this bill in its consideration of LD 1396.

LD 1342 *An Act To Authorize the Public Advocate To Mediate Disputes Related to Rates for Sewer Service* **VETO SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT FLOOD	OTP-AM	H-352

This bill gives the Public Utilities Commission authority to investigate rate changes of sewer districts and sanitary districts, jointly referred to as "sewer utilities," if the commission receives a petition that meets certain criteria requesting it to do so. If the commission receives a valid petition, the rate must be suspended, investigated, reviewed and changed in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 310. The bill includes a process for

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sewer utilities to challenge the validity of the petition. The bill gives the commission authority to adopt rules regarding rate regulation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)

This amendment replaces the bill. It authorizes the Public Advocate to mediate between a sewer district and its customers with respect to a proposed rate change if 15% of the customers or 1,000 customers, whichever is less, petition the Public Advocate to mediate.

LD 1348 An Act To Encourage School Administrative Units To Increase Their Energy Savings

PUBLIC 366

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DORNEY	OTP-AM ONTP	H-353

This bill authorizes the Efficiency Maine Trust to develop an energy program targeted to kindergarten to grade 12 schools, including charter schools.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-353)

This amendment adds private schools to the list of the types of schools that may take advantage of the school energy savings program at the Efficiency Maine Trust. It expands the types of payments that the Efficiency Maine Trust may receive from schools, removes the rule-making requirement and clarifies that funds that may be available from the United States Department of Agriculture are for school districts with a population of less than 20,000 people.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 366 directs the Efficiency Maine Trust, to the extent funds are available, to develop a program to provide energy savings improvements to kindergarten through grade 12 schools. The program may provide incentives and technical support for energy audits and provide financial assistance to schools, including, but not limited to, through loan programs.

LD 1375 An Act To Enhance Maine's Economy and Environment

ONTP

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

Part A of this bill repeals the Public Utilities Commission's authority to direct electric transmission and distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts. It repeals the requirement that grid-scale wind energy developments provide tangible benefits to host communities and repeals the State's wind energy generation goals. It directs the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to develop protocols to accept public complaints related to wind energy developments and directs the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a process for a neutral party to conduct a public hearing on any wind energy development that generates significant public interest. The public hearing must be held before the department may approve an application or issue a permit related to a wind energy development. Part A includes provisions to decrease the visual impact of wind turbines at night. It also fixes cross-references.

Part B of this bill establishes a property value guarantee program to ensure that a landowner whose real property is located within 8 miles of the base of a wind turbine is compensated for any reduction in property value resulting from the proximity of the wind turbine. A wind energy development owner or operator is required to notify landowners within an 8-mile radius of a planned wind turbine of the property value guarantee program. Landowners