

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

**LD 1403 Resolve, To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Amend Its
Rules Regarding Net Energy Billing**

ONTP

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

This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules regarding net energy billing to resolve inconsistencies in the rules adopted for net energy billing for small generators and the rules adopted regarding net energy billing authorized by statute by:

1. Increasing the eligible size for net energy billing to 1,000 kilowatts or less from the 660-kilowatt level;
2. Allowing third-party ownership of individual or multiple facilities;
3. Specifying that third-party-owned facilities are not competitive electricity providers;
4. Allowing groups of customers to participate in net energy billing without sharing ownership of the generating facility; and
5. Requiring a statement on contracts and agreements that the sale or delivery of kilowatt-hours of electricity to net energy billing customers is not subject to sales tax.

The committee voted this bill ought-not-to-pass, but carried over a number of bills related to renewable energy policies and plans to include net energy billing in its consideration of those bills. The bills that the committee carried over are: LD 646, An Act to Remove the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Sources of Energy, LD 1085, An Act to Establish the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff, LD 1252, An Act to Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar and Wind Energy and LD 1278, An Act to Ensure Equitable Support for Long-term Energy Contracts.

**LD 1425 An Act To Create Affordable Heating Options for Maine Residents and
Reduce Business Energy Costs**

ONTP

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

This bill amends the Efficiency Maine Trust laws by including energy cost reduction as a central mission of the trust. Specifically, it allows all energy sources to be eligible for funding to lower the cost of energy for Maine residents. In addition, the bill reduces electricity rates for industrial consumers by redirecting cap-and-trade auction revenue to reduce electricity rates. The bill provides additional flexibility for funding through an assessment that addresses all energy challenges in the State. Finally, the bill amends the regional greenhouse gas initiative laws and makes modifications to the structure of the Efficiency Maine Trust Board.

The committee incorporated some of 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.