

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 1426 An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Lower Energy Costs through
Energy Efficiency**

ONTP

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

This bill changes the structure of the assessment imposed by the Public Utilities Commission for electric efficiency and conservation programs. The bill repeals the base rate of .145¢ per kilowatt hour and instead requires the commission to ensure that all electric ratepayers procure all energy efficiency resources found by the commission to be cost-effective, reliable and achievable and allows the commission to impose any order on transmission and distribution utilities necessary to achieve the energy efficiency savings.

The bill establishes a voluntary heating fuels efficiency and weatherization payment imposed on the transfer of a barrel of #2 heating oil or kerosene or the equivalent amount of propane. The voluntary payment is collected at the wholesale level and may not exceed 2% of the average retail price paid for a gallon of #2 heating oil or its equivalent in the previous year. The Efficiency Maine Trust may not collect the voluntary payment unless it is imposed on 90% of the fuel supplied to the State. The amount of the voluntary payment is set by the fuel dealers; this action is specifically excluded from any state law prohibiting price fixing or collusion. The voluntary payment is deposited in the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund and is matched by an equivalent transfer by the Efficiency Maine Trust from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund.

The bill prohibits transmission and distribution utilities and natural gas utilities from recovering costs from ratepayers for grants offered to a customer for fuel conversion of the customer's primary heating or cooling system and allows the utility to use shareholder funds for grants or loans for fuel conversions under certain circumstances.

The bill requires that, during 2014, 2015 and 2016, at least 65% of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund must be allocated for measures, investments and arrangements that reduce electricity consumption, and not more than 35% must be allocated for fossil fuel conservation measures, investments and arrangements. The bill decreases the percentage of revenue generated from the use of energy efficiency corridors owned by the Department of Transportation that is deposited into the Secondary Road Program Fund from 90% to 20% and increases the percentage of revenue deposited in the energy infrastructure benefits fund from 10% to 80%.

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.

LD 1434 An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Noise from Wind Turbines

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill requires unregulated wind energy developments that buy and sell electricity to meet the same sound level standards that wind energy developments permitted under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6 must meet.

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).