

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 1442 An Act To Establish a Pilot Natural Gas District in Maine

**P & S 17
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C LACHOWICZ	OTP-AM	H-419

This bill establishes the Kennebec Valley Gas District, which is a pilot natural gas utility district.

The bill also requires the Public Utilities Commission to study and make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters by December 2, 2015, regarding the need for further enactment of legislation to facilitate or promote the purposes of the establishment of municipal natural gas utility districts in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-419)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment establishes the Kennebec Regional Gas District to assist and help coordinate with the provision of natural gas from third-party suppliers or distributors of natural gas to the citizens, organizations and businesses of the district, including through grants, loans or other financial assistance; to assist in aggregating customers for the purpose of procuring natural gas supply to customers within the district who elect to participate in such aggregation; to provide grants, loans or other financial assistance to residential and commercial customers in the district to obtain natural gas or to assist such customers with natural gas conversions; to own, operate or assist in the development or operation of one or more facilities that use natural gas to cogenerate electric power and other useful energy; and to manage the district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 17 establishes the Kennebec Regional Gas District to assist and help coordinate with the provision of natural gas from third-party suppliers or distributors of natural gas to the citizens, organizations and businesses of the district, including through grants, loans or other financial assistance; to assist in aggregating customers for the purpose of procuring natural gas supply to customers within the district who elect to participate in such aggregation; to provide grants, loans or other financial assistance to residential and commercial customers in the district to obtain natural gas or to assist such customers with natural gas conversions; to own, operate or assist in the development or operation of one or more facilities that use natural gas to cogenerate electric power and other useful energy; and to manage the district.

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 17 was enacted an emergency measure effective June 29, 2013.

LD 1456 An Act To Promote Local or Community-based Generation Projects

ONTP

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

This bill:

1. Requires that all meters installed by an electric transmission and distribution utility be electromechanical;
2. Requires that electric transmission and distribution utilities have neutral wires with the capacity to return 150% of excess power to the grid and that the wires return existing power at a rate that is greater than 95%. The commission is required to certify that transmission and distribution utilities meet this standard for neutral wires;