

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.

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3. Creates a new class of electricity generators, small renewable generators, for the purposes of requiring a standard-offer service provider to purchase the electricity generated from the small renewable generators at rates higher than market value for the first 15 to 25 years that the generator is connected to the grid; and
4. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop a set of recommendations including tax and regulatory incentives to encourage the development of decentralized microgrids or community-based or neighborhood-based clean energy generation facilities using solar, wind and geothermal energy as nontransmission alternatives.

LD 1457 An Act To Amend the Charter of the South Berwick Sewer District

P & S 11

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EVES HILL	OTP	

This bill amends the charter of the South Berwick Sewer District by changing the annual meeting to the first Monday in March instead of the 2nd Monday in March and increasing the compensation for trustees from \$150 per year to \$350 per year and the compensation for the chair from \$250 per year to \$500 per year.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 11 amends the charter of the South Berwick Sewer District by changing the annual meeting to the first Monday in March instead of the 2nd Monday in March and increasing the compensation for trustees from \$150 per year to \$350 per year and the compensation for the chair from \$250 per year to \$500 per year.

LD 1468 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Establish the High-efficiency Biomass, Pellet or Wood Boiler Rebate Program and the Home Heating Conversion Fund

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill establishes the High-efficiency Biomass Pellet Boiler Rebate Program, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, to give rebates to owners or occupants of buildings who install high-efficiency wood pellet boilers or heating systems in the buildings. The rebates are paid from the Home Heating Conversion Fund, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, which also provides funds to replace outdoor wood boilers that do not meet air quality standards as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Home Heating Conversion Fund is funded by \$20,000,000 in revenue bonds issued by the Efficiency Maine Trust and paid for by the sale of sustainably harvested timber from public reserved lands.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-253)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment:

1. Establishes three goals relating to the use of revenue from the State's public reserved lands: to support the harvest of timber from the public reserved lands up to the sustainable yield on a year-to-year basis, to support land management and public access to public reserved lands and to support certain heating system programs;
2. In fiscal year 2013-14 allocates \$200,000 and in fiscal year 2014-15 allocates \$345,000 from the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Parks and

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Public Lands to fund the building of infrastructure for land management and public access opportunities;

3. In fiscal year 2013-14 allocates \$500,000 and in fiscal year 2014-15 allocates \$1,000,000 from the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to fund a program, to be developed by the department, to provide funding assistance to the owners or occupants of residential buildings in this State to install high-efficiency, biomass-fueled, central heating systems or boilers as a primary heating source or to replace outdoor wood boilers that do not meet air quality standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Eligible systems under the program must have an efficiency rating of at least 80%;

4. Directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a program to expand affordable residential heating options using funds allocated to the trust from the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund. The program must provide funding assistance for new heating system installations and improvements that will significantly reduce residential energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the trust. Consistent with the purposes of the program, the program must provide funding assistance to systems on a technology-neutral basis. In providing assistance under the program, the trust must consider tax or grant subsidies from the Federal Government. The trust may develop specific programs for regions of the State where options for home heating have the highest costs; and

5. Beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 and biennially thereafter requires the Director of the Division of Parks and Public Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to determine the amount of funds needed to support the harvest of timber from the public reserved lands up to the sustainable yield on a year-to-year basis and to support land management and public access to public reserved lands. In fiscal year 2015-16, that amount must include \$450,000 to fund the building of infrastructure for land management and public access opportunities. Any funds in excess of that amount must be identified by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in the revenue estimated as available to be allocated to the Efficiency Maine Trust. The director also is directed to provide an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the Efficiency Maine Trust identifying the excess funds that may be allocated to the Efficiency Maine Trust.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-301)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment authorizes a General Fund bond issue to fund the High-efficiency Biomass Boiler Rebate Program to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used to provide rebates through the Home Heating Conversion Fund for an owner or occupant of a building who installs a high-efficiency, biomass central heating system or boiler.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 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 1471 An Act Authorizing the Board of Environmental Protection To Modify ONTP
a License for a Wind Energy Development**

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

This bill ensures that reductions in the sound level limits adopted by rule by the Department of Environmental Protection for the routine operation of wind energy developments are applied to previously approved wind energy developments. This bill directs the Board of Environmental Protection to modify an existing license for a wind energy development to implement sound level standards that were adopted by rule subsequent to the approval of the