

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 1532 An Act To Provide Model Language for Standard Sewer District Charters

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill creates a model standard sewer district charter in statute. It includes standard language for the common provisions included in a sewer district charter. It also includes the mandatory requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 12, except the requirement that a new sewer district be formed under the Sanitary District Enabling Act and that a proposed amendment to extend the boundaries of a sewer district be approved by referendum before the amendment is presented to the Legislature.

This bill repeals Title 38, chapter 12. The bill also fixes cross-references.

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).

LD 1537 An Act To Promote the Delivery of Natural Gas to Central Maine

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

FREDETTE

ONTP

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to promote the delivery of natural gas to the central Maine region.

LD 1553 An Act To Maintain Competition among Electricity Suppliers Serving Northern Maine

PUBLIC 346

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

JACKSON T
WILLETTE

OTP

This bill provides that the limitations on how much electricity an affiliated competitive provider may sell within the service territory of the distribution utility with which it is affiliated do not apply to competitive electricity service or standard-offer service in the service territory or any portion of the service territory of a distribution utility that is located in an area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine unless the Public Utilities Commission finds that the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine is substantially similar to the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area of the State that is within the New England independent system operator control area.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 346 provides that the limitations on how much electricity an affiliated competitive provider may sell within the service territory of the distribution utility with which it is affiliated do not apply to competitive electricity service or standard-offer service in the service territory or any portion of the service territory of a distribution utility that is located in an area administered by the independent system administrator for northern

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Maine unless the Public Utilities Commission finds that the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine is substantially similar to the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area of the State that is within the New England independent system operator control area.

**LD 1559 An Act To Reduce Energy Costs, Increase Energy Efficiency, Promote
Electric System Reliability and Protect the Environment**

**PUBLIC 369
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

H-350 FREDETTE

This bill is reported by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Order 2013, H.P. 1125.

PART A

This Part 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 effective July 1, 2015, and instead requires the commission to ensure that transmission and distribution utilities have sufficient revenue from rates to provide for the procurement for the benefit of ratepayers of 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.

This Part 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%.

This Part directs that funds received by transmission and distribution utilities pursuant to Maine Yankee litigation be paid 55% to the Efficiency Maine Trust and 45% to ratepayers pursuant to an order of the commission allocating the funds for the maximum benefit to the Maine economy.

This Part allocates 35% of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative proceeds to residential fuel switching, as approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust, 50% to electric savings and thermal savings for commercial and industrial facilities and 15% to the Public Utilities Commission to be disbursed to transmission and distribution utilities for the maximum benefit to the State's economy.

This Part approves a pending long-term contract for energy efficiency resources as recommended by the Public Utilities Commission.

PART B

This Part gives the Public Utilities Commission the authority until December 31, 2018 to execute an energy cost reduction contract to procure natural gas pipeline capacity for the purpose of increasing the flow of natural gas into New England by 2,000,000,000 cubic feet per day.

This Part establishes the standards for the Public Utilities Commission to execute an energy cost reduction contract.

This Part requires consultation with the Office of the Public Advocate and the Governor's Energy Office when the Public Utilities Commission hires a consultant to assist in developing the terms of an energy cost reduction contract. An energy cost reduction contract may not be executed without approval from the Governor. The cost of the contract may not exceed \$75,000,000 annually. The Public Utilities Commission may direct a transmission and