

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

May 2014

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND**  
**ENACTED LAWS**

The *Digest* is arranged 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.

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 Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is August 1, 2014. 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 1620 An Act To Increase the Maximum Gas Safety Administrative Penalty Amounts**

**PUBLIC 495**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBINS CLEVELAND	OTP-AM	H-637

This bill increases the maximum gas safety administrative penalty amounts to be consistent with federal law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-637)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 495 increases the maximum gas safety administrative penalty amounts to be consistent with federal law.

**LD 1621 An Act To Include Natural Gas Expansion in the State Energy Plan**

**PUBLIC 541**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE	OTP-AM	H-737

This bill creates the Newport Natural Gas District.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-737)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment adds natural gas expansion as an issue to be included in the state energy plan developed by the Governor's Energy Office.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 541 adds natural gas expansion as an issue to be included in the state energy plan developed by the Governor's Energy Office.

**LD 1628 An Act To Require a Timely Response by a Gas Company to a Municipal Request for Service Expansion**

**ONTP**

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

This bill requires a natural gas utility to respond within six months to a municipality's request for the natural gas utility to build a pipeline extension within that municipality if that municipality is within the natural gas utility's service territory. If the natural gas utility requires a financial contribution for the construction, the natural gas utility must provide justification to the municipality for the amount required.

The committee considered this bill with LD 1621. The committee voted this bill ought-not-to-pass and unanimously supported an amended version of LD 1621 which directs the Governor's Energy Office to include the expansion of natural gas as a component of the state energy plan. The committee also sent a letter to the Governor's Energy