

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH 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
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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 HOUSESHouse & 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
EMERGENCYenacted 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 126th 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 1652 **An Act To Support Solar Energy Development in Maine**

PUBLIC 562

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VITELLI GIDEON	OTP-AM	S-473

This bill was carried over from the 126th First Regular Session of the Legislature.

This bill creates the Maine Solar Energy Act, which:

1. States specific legislative findings that it is in the public interest to encourage development of solar energy production in the State. This includes finding that solar energy development makes a significant contribution to the general welfare of the citizens of the State and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to take specific measures regarding solar energy, including monitoring development and market trends and determining the value of distributed solar energy generation;
3. Requires the State, including the Small Enterprise Growth Program, the Maine Technology Institute, the Maine Rural Development Authority, the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of Economic and Community Development, to seek opportunities to promote solar energy development, generation and manufacturing within existing programs; and
4. Establishes state solar energy generation goals.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-473)

This amendment modifies the legislative findings and goals of the bill. This amendment adds more specificity to the required components of the study conducted by the Public Utilities Commission regarding the value of distributed solar energy generation and adds a summary of solar implementation options as part of the study. This amendment moves the study report date from January 15, 2015 to February 15, 2015.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 562 creates the Maine Solar Energy Act, which:

1. States specific legislative findings relating to solar energy;
2. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to take specific measures regarding solar energy, including monitoring development and market trends and determining the value of distributed solar energy generation;
3. Requires the State, including the Small Enterprise Growth Program, the Maine Technology Institute, the Maine Rural Development Authority, the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of Economic and Community Development, to seek opportunities to promote solar energy development, generation and manufacturing within existing programs; and
4. Establishes state solar energy generation goals.

The law further directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study to determine the value of distributed solar energy generation in the State.