

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

development will have an unreasonable adverse effect on scenic character or existing uses and whether an applicant must provide a visual impact assessment, the primary siting authority is required to consider the energy and emissions-related benefits of the expedited wind energy development, the policy objectives of the Maine Wind Energy Act and the energy, environmental and economic benefits associated with the expedited wind energy development.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-483)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct routine technical rulemaking to establish the submission requirements for permit applications for wind energy developments. It directs the department to use the submission requirements that were established in accordance with Public Law 2007, chapter 661, Part B, section 13 until the rulemaking is completed. This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-550)

This amendment removes the appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1752

An Act To Preserve Certain Rights Granted to Maine Public Service Company before Its Merger with Bangor Hydro Electric Company

P & S 25

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T GIDEON	OTP-AM	S-429

This bill provides that any rights previously granted by private and special law to Maine Public Service Company or its predecessors are not lost as a result of the merger of the company and Bangor Hydro Electric Company if those rights were in existence at the time of the merger.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-429)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. This amendment provides that any rights previously granted by private and special law to Maine Public Service Company and any duties imposed by private and special law upon Maine Public Service Company are transferred to and assumed by Bangor Hydro Electric Company in the same manner and to the same extent as those rights and duties applied to Maine Public Service Company.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 25 provides that any rights previously granted by private and special law to Maine Public Service Company and any duties imposed by private and special law upon Maine Public Service Company are transferred to and assumed by Bangor Hydro Electric Company in the same manner and to the same extent as those rights and duties applied to Maine Public Service Company.

LD 1761

An Act To Ensure That Large Public Utility Reorganizations Advance the Economic Development and Information Access Goals of the State

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBINS JACKSON T	OTP-AM ONTP OTP-AM	H-772

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to approve a sale, merger, consolidation or reorganization involving a public utility with gross annual state revenues greater than \$50,000,000 only when it is satisfied that the proposal will advance the economic development and information access goals of the State, result in economic