

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

STAFF:

JEAN GUZZETTI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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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 1791 An Act To Expand Benefits from Maine's Wind Resource

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARVELL PATRICK	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill changes the goals for wind energy development in the Maine Wind Energy Act from a schedule of increasing levels of installed capacity to a statement that the goals are expanded economic opportunities in the State, including increasing the number of jobs in the manufacturing, construction and development of wind energy projects, and lower electricity prices for the State's residential, commercial and industrial consumers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-726)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. This amendment strikes the section of the bill that repeals the megawatt goals for wind energy development. It also slightly modifies the wording of the bill relating to wind energy goals to provide that the State must aspire to advance those goals.

LD 1792 An Act To Protect Jobs in the Forest Product Industry

**P & S 27
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY THOMAS	OTP-AM	H-758

Current law restricts the ability of Great Northern Paper, LLC, to receive revenue from the sale of electricity from Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners when there is a cessation or reduction of paper production. In order to allow the Millinocket or East Millinocket paper production facility to benefit from the electricity revenue during the closure period and help the facility sustain its operations and remain viable during the closure, this bill amends the law to require Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners to transfer to Great Northern Paper, LLC, certain windfall revenue received from sales of electricity available due to the cessation or reduction of paper production and sold to other purchasers or into the wholesale electric market as long as there is no reduction in labor force associated with the cessation or reduction of paper production, commencing after the restart of the East Millinocket paper production facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-758)

Current law restricts the ability of Great Northern Paper, LLC, to receive revenue from the sale of electricity from Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners when there is a long-term cessation of paper production for a period of at least 90 days. This amendment, which replaces the bill, clarifies that the current law does not prohibit short-term load-shedding agreements and expressly authorizes such agreements for the purpose of promoting the continued viability of the paper production facilities and preserving the work force employed at those facilities and thereby promoting the public welfare. It also allows a one-time, limited exemption from certain provisions of current law, including the prohibition on agreements relating to longer-term paper mill closings, for the current cessation of paper production at the East Millinocket paper production facility that began on January 23, 2014, as long as certain conditions are met, including a reopening of the facility no later than June 30, 2014 with the number of employees agreed upon by the unions representing the employees and the owner of the paper production facility.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 27 clarifies that the current law does not prohibit short-term load-shedding agreements and expressly authorizes such agreements for the purpose of promoting the continued viability of the