

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
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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 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

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 556 requires transmission and distribution utilities to implement arrearage management programs to assist eligible low-income residential customers who are in arrears on their electricity bills. The Public Utilities Commission must develop the program through rulemaking. The program must include measures to help participants reduce their energy consumption, including a free electricity usage assessment. The Efficiency Maine Trust must provide access to complementary energy efficiency programs for program participants. The bill requires that a transmission and distribution utility recover in rates all costs of the program except those arrearages that are forgiven and written off as bad debt. The Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters by January 28, 2018 regarding the effectiveness of the program. That committee may report out legislation related to the report.

The law is repealed September 30, 2018.

LD 1860

An Act To Provide for Temporary Commissioners at the Public Utilities Commission

**PUBLIC 554
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

RUSSELL

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill authorizes the Governor to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Legislature, three individuals to be alternate commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission on a case-by-case basis whenever two or more commissioners, due to a conflict of interest, disability or other reason, are unable to serve in a proceeding, which results in the commission being unable to maintain a quorum.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2013, chapter 554 authorizes the Governor to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Legislature, three individuals to be alternate commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission on a case-by-case basis whenever two or more commissioners, due to a conflict of interest, disability or other reason, are unable to serve in a proceeding, which results in the commission being unable to maintain a quorum.

Public Law 2013, chapter 554 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 17, 2014.