

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2015

MEMBERS:

SEN. DAVID WOODSOME, CHAIR
SEN. GARRETT P. MASON
SEN. DAWN HILL

REP. MARK N. DION, CHAIR
REP. ROBERTA B. BEAVERS
REP. CHRISTOPHER W. BABBIDGE
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. JENNIFER L. DECHANT
REP. MARTIN J. GROHMAN
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY
REP. BETH A. O'CONNOR
REP. NORMAN E. HIGGINS
REP. NATHAN J. WADSWORTH

STAFF:

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

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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 First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. 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

Resolve 2015, chapter 9 provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to make an additional change to Chapter 895 before final adoption is authorized. It requires a specific time frame, not to exceed 10 business days, for a non-member operator to notify the commission that the non-member operator's contact person who receives excavation notifications has changed or that the contact information of the contact person has changed for purposes of maintaining the commission's OKTODIG database.

Resolve 2015, chapter 9 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2015.

LD 216

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Hampden Water District

**P & S 2
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CUSHING DAVITT	OTP-AM	S-9

This bill amends the Hampden Water District charter to change a trustee's term of office from five years to three years and to change what constitutes a vacancy on the board of trustees and how a vacancy may be filled.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-9)

This amendment provides that current terms of the trustees of the Hampden Water District are modified to transition from the current five-year terms to the three-year terms established in the bill. The amendment also removes language from the bill and from the district's current charter that defines particular circumstances that create a vacancy in the position of trustee; the amendment authorizes the board of trustees to define in its bylaws particular circumstances under which a vacancy is deemed to be created, such as when a trustee ceases to be a resident of the district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 2 amends the Hampden Water District charter to change a trustee's term of office from five years to three year and provides that current terms of the trustees of the Hampden Water District are modified to transition from five-year terms to three-year terms. It allows trustees to call and hold a special election to fill a vacancy of the board. It removes language from the district's current charter that defines particular circumstances that create a vacancy in the position of trustee and instead authorizes the board of trustees to define in its bylaws particular circumstances under which a vacancy is deemed to be created, such as when a trustee ceases to be a resident of the district.

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2015.

LD 237

An Act To Address Recommendations from the Report by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Regarding the Public Utilities Commission

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L WOODSOME	OTP-AM	H-53

This bill establishes a consumer advisor position in the Office of the Public Advocate to advise citizens participating in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. The position is established to address a recommendation in