

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> 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

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127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

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## 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 127<sup>th</sup> 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.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ....	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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*

statutory sunset as in the bill.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 25 extends the statutory sunset of the green power offer to April 1, 2021.

**LD 342      An Act To Reduce the E-9-1-1 Surcharge      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DION WOODSOME	ONTP	

This bill reduces the E-9-1-1 surcharge from 45 cents to 40 cents beginning January 1, 2016.

**LD 357      Resolve, To Study Options for a State Demand Response Program      RESOLVE 14**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L WHITTEMORE	OTP-AM	H-75

This resolve directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to conduct a study of options for a state demand response program that will produce electricity consumer and electric grid benefits and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2016.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)**

This amendment adds language to the preamble. The amendment also adds language that encourages participation of Maine electricity consumers in the state demand response program. The amendment includes the Office of the Public Advocate as a consultant to the Efficiency Maine Trust's study. The amendment requires that in the survey with other New England states the trust gauge interest in program rules that do not unduly burden or discourage consumer participation. The amendment requires that the trust solicit the involvement of transmission and distribution utilities. The amendment directs the trust to coordinate with other state agency participants to more effectively and efficiently solicit public comment. Lastly, the amendment authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2015, chapter 14 directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to conduct a study of options for a state demand response program that will produce electricity consumer and electric grid benefits and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2016. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

**LD 398      An Act To Allow Consumers of Cable Television To Purchase Channels Individually      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

***Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology***

This bill requires that cable system operators offer subscribers the option of purchasing access to cable channels individually.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-64)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, retains the provision of the bill that requires a cable system operator to offer subscribers the option of purchasing access to cable channels individually and adds an exception for those channels that are provided in the basic service tier.

**LD 420      An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Filing Fees for Proposed      Veto Sustained**  
**Transmission Line Projects**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DION WOODSOME	OTP-AM	H-71

This bill proposes to amend the law in the following two ways.

1. It changes the fee for petitioning the Public Utilities Commission for approval to erect a transmission line capable of operating at 69 kilovolts or more from 4/100 of one percent of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line to 4/100 of one percent or \$100,000, whichever is higher.
2. It amends the law to require a fee of 2/100 of one percent of the estimated cost of a transmission line and its associated infrastructure capable of operating at less than 69 kilovolts and projected to cost in excess of \$20,000,000 to be paid by a person petitioning the Public Utilities Commission to construct such a line and infrastructure.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-71)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**LD 430      An Act To Assist Municipalities To Obtain Payment of Overdue Sewer      ONTP**  
**Bills**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS MAKER	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to assist municipalities in obtaining payment of overdue sewer bills by strengthening the enforcement tools that are available to municipalities to collect these debts.

**LD 446      An Act To Change the Name of the Public Utilities Commission's      PUBLIC 8**  
**Consumer Assistance Division**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME DION	OTP	