

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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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

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	

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill adds "and safety" to references to the Public Utilities Commission's consumer assistance division to reflect that the division now also oversees the State's gas safety regulation and enforcement, and enforcement of the underground facility damage prevention law.

Enacted Law Summary

Public law 2015, chapter 8 adds "and safety" to references to the Public Utilities Commission's consumer assistance division to reflect that the division now also oversees the State's gas safety regulation and enforcement, and enforcement of the underground facility damage prevention law.

LD 465 An Act To Eliminate the Broadband Sustainability Fee

PUBLIC 151

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS DAVIS	OTP-AM	H-219

This bill terminates the broadband sustainability fee and requires that all funds in the broadband sustainability fund be used to support municipal governments in developing plans to promote broadband service in unserved or underserved areas.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-219)

This amendment requires the ConnectME Authority to use any remaining funds from the broadband sustainability fund to support and promote broadband service in unserved or underserved areas. The bill directs the funds to municipal governments for the development of plans to promote broadband.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 151 terminates the broadband sustainability fee and requires the ConnectME Authority to use any remaining funds from the broadband sustainability fund to support and promote broadband service in unserved or underserved areas.

LD 466 An Act To Increase Competition and Ensure a Robust Information and Telecommunications Market

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L WHITTEMORE		

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

This bill proposes to determine public policy for provider of last resort telecommunications service in the State.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 992.

LD 558 An Act To Amend the Community-based Renewable Energy Project Laws for Purposes of the Mayo Mill Project

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS DAVIS	ONTP	