

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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127TH 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 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.

<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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & 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 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 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 CARRIED OVER
Telecommunications Market

<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 ONTP
Laws for Purposes of the Mayo Mill Project

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

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill would increase the maximum generating capacity for all program participants under the community-based renewable energy pilot program from 50 megawatts to 60 megawatts. This would allow other projects, including the Mayo Mill project in Dover-Foxcroft to participate in the program.

LD 589 An Act To Increase the Beneficial Reuse of Waste Materials

PUBLIC 220

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	S-164

This bill would allow biomass generators that are fueled by any type of anaerobic digestion to be a renewable capacity resource under the renewable portfolio requirements. This is an expansion of the current law that limits biomass generators to be fueled by anaerobic digestion of agricultural products, by-products or wastes only.

This bill also amends the Community-based Renewable Energy Act in the following ways.

1. It adds the term “net generating capacity” to the definitions section of the Act.
2. It changes the limits on capacity for program participant from installed generating capacity to net generating capacity.
3. It provides that projects authorized and certified by the Public Utilities Commission before December 31, 2015, retain those approvals as long as the project continues to develop and operate.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-164)

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment makes an electricity generator that relies on anaerobic digestion of by-products of waste from animals or agricultural crops, food or vegetative material, algae or organic refuse a renewable capacity resource under the renewable resource portfolio requirements.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 220 allows a biomass generator that relies on anaerobic digestion of by-products of waste from animals or agricultural crops, food or vegetative material, algae or organic refuse to be a renewable capacity resource under the renewable resource portfolio requirements.

LD 593 An Act To Allow the Resale of Electricity by Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

PUBLIC 29

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT RYKERSON	OTP	

This bill exempts an electric vehicle charging station provider from being considered a competitive electricity provider. The bill defines what constitutes an electric vehicle charging station provider and allows a provider to install an electrical submeter and to charge a submeter user only for kilowatt hours used.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 29 exempts an electric vehicle charging station provider from being considered a competitive electricity provider. It defines what constitutes an electric vehicle charging station provider and allows a provider to install an electrical submeter and to charge a submeter user only for kilowatt hours used.