

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

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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 amendment removes from the bill telecommunications services and energy generation, transmission or distribution services from the services allowed to be provided through a regional municipal utility district.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 222 amends the laws governing interlocal agreements to expressly allow an agreement that establishes a regional municipal utility district to provide or, through public-private partnerships, to support or promote the provision of broadband services and Internet services and to issue revenue bonds in support of any of these activities.

LD 945 An Act To Manage Electricity Rates To Lower Consumer Electricity Bills and Increase Utilities' Cash Flow through 3rd-party Management of Smart Meters ONTP

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

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

This bill proposes to manage electricity rates to lower consumer electricity bills and increase utilities' cash flow through third-party management of smart meters.

LD 946 Resolve, To Establish a Moratorium on the Assessment of Large Volume Consumers by Gas Utilities and To Evaluate Cost-effective Natural Gas Conservation and Efficiency Improvements for Large Volume Consumers RESOLVE 39

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L MASON	OTP-AM	H-369

This bill changes laws amended by Public Law 2013, chapter 369, also known as the Omnibus Energy Act. It provides that only consumers whose rates reflect an assessment that is charged to a gas utility and deposited in the natural gas conservation fund are eligible to receive funding from the fund. It exempts large volume commercial or industrial customers from paying an assessment to be deposited in the fund except through a voluntary arrangement. It provides that the Public Utilities Commission may not approve a long-term contract to supply installed capacity and associated renewable energy and renewable energy credits from one or more deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects or tidal energy demonstration projects that assesses any amount from transmission voltage level customers and subtransmission voltage level customers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-369)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment establishes a moratorium on assessments for large volume consumers by gas utilities until 90 days after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. This amendment specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not allow a natural gas utility to collect an assessment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10111 through its rates from large volume consumers and may not make a final decision regarding the appropriateness of or size of such collections from large volume consumers. The amendment specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not order or authorize a natural gas utility to exempt from collection of an assessment through its rates any consumers other than large volume consumers. The amendment specifies that, during this same time period, large volume consumers are not eligible to participate in any Efficiency Maine Trust natural gas conservation programs. This amendment also