

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2016

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

SECOND 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 Second 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.

*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 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 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is July 29, 2016. 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**

Commission the authority to execute an additional contract under the Act called a physical energy storage contract, which is a contract for physical storage capacity of liquefied natural gas. As in the Act, for energy cost reduction contracts, the commission may only execute a contract in consultation with the Governor's Energy Office and the Public Advocate. A contract or contracts for physical energy storage under this law may not exceed in total \$25,000,000 annually, and the total of all contracts entered into under the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act may not exceed \$75,000,000 annually. This law makes the process for the determination and execution of a contract for physical energy storage consistent with the requirements for an energy cost reduction contract. This law specifies that prior to September 1, 2016, the commission may not initiate a proceeding for a physical energy storage contract unless the commission has issued an order in the adjudicatory proceeding initiated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 19, pending as of February 1, 2016, for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts that includes a determination of the contract amounts to be purchased. This law further specifies that the enactment of this law is not to be construed to reflect legislative findings on Public Law 2013, chapter 369, Part B, section 1, nor to have any substantive or procedural effect on the commission proceeding for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts pending as of February 1, 2016.

**LD 1073**

**An Act To Lower Energy Costs and Increase Access to Solar Energy for Agricultural Businesses**

**Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill establishes the Solar Energy Agricultural Rebate Fund to be used by the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide rebates until December 31, 2017 for solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies to agricultural businesses. It provides that an agricultural business that is a customer of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility must be compensated for accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits every 12 months. It also authorizes customers of transmission and distribution utilities to elect to be billed using net energy billing.

**LD 1075**

**An Act To Amend the Charter of the Canton Water District**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK J PETERSON M	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill amends the Canton Water District charter. It adds language allowing the district to contract out work, changes provisions governing the scheduling of the annual meeting of the board of trustees in order to increase flexibility and changes the provisions regarding compensation of trustees to have the trustees recommend and the municipal officers of the Town of Canton approve compensation amounts. It removes language allowing the trustees to include their annual report in the town report. It changes a quorum at annual and special meetings of the board of trustees from five percent to a majority of those present and narrows voting at those meetings from residents of the district to customers residing in the district. It also establishes readiness-to-serve charges, allows the district to invest in mutual funds and establishes liens for unpaid rates.