

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.

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dynamic signs or luminaires within 10 feet of overhead high-voltage lines.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-122)

This amendment provides that traffic lighting is considered covered equipment under the Overhead High-voltage Line Safety Act, and it defines "traffic lighting." This amendment provides that state agencies, quasi-independent state agencies and municipalities are exempt from the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 756 and 757 for the installation or maintenance of traffic lighting as long as the person performing the installation or maintenance has met applicable training certification or licensing requirements for performing the installation or maintenance and the installation or maintenance is performed in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, safety codes and ordinances and any other applicable safety requirements. The amendment also requires a municipality or a contractor working for a municipality to maintain the minimum insurance requirements specified by the Department of Transportation.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 177 provides that traffic lighting is considered covered equipment under the Overhead High-voltage Line Safety Act, and it defines "traffic lighting." It provides that state agencies, quasi-independent state agencies and municipalities are exempt from the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 756 and 757 for the installation or maintenance of traffic lighting as long as the person performing the installation or maintenance has met applicable training certification or licensing requirements for performing the installation or maintenance and the installation or maintenance is performed in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, safety codes and ordinances and any other applicable safety requirements. It also requires a municipality or a contractor working for a municipality to maintain the minimum insurance requirements specified by the Department of Transportation.

LD 1255 An Act To Improve Rural Utility Service through the Use of Microgrids ONTP

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

This bill creates a new chapter in the laws concerning public utilities for microgrids and defines what constitutes a microgrid. It provides the Public Utilities Commission the authority to adopt major substantive rules to regulate the creation and operation of microgrids.

LD 1256 An Act To Improve the Safety and Survival of 9-1-1 Callers and First Responders PUBLIC 230

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS WOODSOME	OTP-AM	H-268

This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to provide selected public safety answering points with assistance in the voluntary adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols, which includes dispatcher training and certification consistent with the protocols, necessary software and printed support materials and a continuous quality improvement program that measures compliance with the protocols through ongoing random case review of each police and fire dispatcher. Funding is provided by allowing up to five cents of each statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge collected to be used by the bureau.

The bill directs the bureau to adopt routine technical rules that contain criteria to determine how to allocate resources among public safety answering points if more public safety answering points seek to adopt and implement

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standardized dispatch protocols than available funding will cover. This bill directs the bureau to seek input from the statewide association of dispatchers when developing the criteria for rules.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268)

This amendment changes the adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols from voluntary to mandatory and limits those protocols to only fire calls, instead of police and fire as in the bill. This amendment phases in adoption and implementation over a three-year period and requires the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to adopt routine technical rules, with input from all public safety answering point managing entities, that identify the phase-in process and address program administration. Lastly, this amendment directs the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters that includes cost estimates for the adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols for answering police 9-1-1- calls, the time it would take to phase in these protocols based on available funding from the surcharge in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2927, subsections 1-E and 1-F, whether there should be a certification and licensing requirement for all standardized dispatch protocols and any other recommendations to ensure efficient and effective oversight of the standardized dispatch protocols. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters may submit legislation during the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature relating to the report.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 230 directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to assist public safety answering points in the adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols for fire 9-1-1 calls by using up to five cents of each E-9-1-1 surcharge and prepaid wireless telecommunications service E-9-1-1 surcharge collected to provide dispatcher training, necessary software and support materials, and quality assurance training and software. It requires the adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols for fire 9-1-1 calls to be phased in over a three-year period. It requires the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to adopt routine technical rules, with input from all public safety answering point managing entities, that identify the phase-in process and address program administration. Lastly, it directs the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters that includes cost estimates for the adoption and implementation of standardized dispatch protocols for answering police 9-1-1- calls, the time it would take to phase in these protocols based on available funding from the surcharge in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2927, subsections 1-E and 1-F, whether there should be a certification and licensing requirement for all standardized dispatch protocols and any other recommendations to ensure efficient and effective oversight of the standardized dispatch protocols. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters may submit legislation during the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature relating to the report.

LD 1257 Resolve, To Make Home Heat Pumps Affordable

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

FREDETTE

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This resolve allows the Public Utilities Commission to authorize a transmission and distribution utility to purchase heat pumps for consumer use and offer special discounted electric rates or other assistance to make heat pumps more accessible to residents of the State.