

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.

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

LD 1263

Resolve, To Create Sustainable Growth in Maine's Distributed Energy Sector That Uses Market Forces To Fairly Compensate Energy Producers

RESOLVE 37

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	H-368

This bill allows customers of transmission and distribution utilities to engage in net energy billing, a method under which a customer is billed on the basis of net energy over the billing period taking into account accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits from the previous billing period. It changes the law regarding renewable resources to increase the new renewable capacity resources percentages in the portfolio requirements of competitive electricity providers and requires those increases to be met by new renewable capacity resources that rely on solar energy, and it removes the Public Utilities Commission's power to suspend scheduled increases in portfolio requirements for new renewable capacity resources. It also establishes an alternative compliance payment mechanism and a system of solar renewable energy credits, including an auction for long-term contracts for these credits, in order to provide competitive electricity providers with alternative methods to satisfy the new portfolio requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-368)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to develop an alternative to net energy billing. This amendment provides direction for the commission in the development of an alternative. This amendment requires the commission to submit a report by January 30, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes an overview of the stakeholder discussions; an overview of the alternative; any areas in which stakeholders were unable to reach consensus; technical specifications, rules or policies needed to carry out the alternative; a proposed timeline for implementation of the alternative; technical or legal barriers to implementation of the alternative; and any other recommendations. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to the report.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 37 directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to develop an alternative to net energy billing. The law provides direction for the commission in the development of an alternative. The law requires the commission to submit a report by January 30, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes an overview of the stakeholder discussions; an overview of the alternative; any areas in which stakeholders were unable to reach consensus; technical specifications, rules or policies needed to carry out the alternative; a proposed timeline for implementation of the alternative; technical or legal barriers to implementation of the alternative; and any other recommendations. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature related to the report.

LD 1293

An Act To Allow a Local Distributed Energy Pilot Program

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASTRACCIO WOODSOME	ONTP OTP	

This bill establishes a pilot program to encourage municipal and private partnerships to develop solar array photovoltaic systems that provide public benefits. The total generating capacity of all solar array photovoltaic