

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH 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

127TH 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 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 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 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

LD 1495

An Act To Allow the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District To Establish and Maintain a Capital Reserve Fund

P & S 12

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C CYRWAY S	OTP	

This bill allows the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District to establish a capital reserve fund to help in paying for the maintaining, rehabilitating, upgrading and replacing of its aging infrastructure.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 12 allows the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District to establish a capital reserve fund to help in paying for the maintaining, rehabilitating, upgrading and replacing of its aging infrastructure.

LD 1513

An Act To Clarify Laws Relating to Affiliate Ownership of Electric Generation

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DION M WOODSOME D	ONTP	

This bill clarifies language regarding ownership interest, financial interest or control of generation or generation-related assets by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility.

This bill also allows the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to allow an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to have an interest in a generation affiliate as long as that interest is not a financial interest sufficient to produce incentives for favoritism that would undermine the purposes of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 32. This bill allows the commission to adopt major substantive rules that establish minimum standards necessary to protect ratepayers and standards of conduct that govern the relationship between an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility and a generation affiliate. This bill requires that standards of conduct adopted by commission rule ensure at a minimum that a generation affiliate is not given preference over nonaffiliated competitive generators; employees of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility are physically separated from and not shared with those of a generation affiliate; the books of accounts and records of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility and a generation affiliate are separate and are subject to review by the commission; and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility does not subsidize the business of a generation affiliate at the expense of the ratepayer.

This bill defines "generation affiliate" as an affiliate of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that owns or controls generation or generation-related assets.

LD 1558

An Act To Enable Low-income and Other Customers Greater Access To Efficient Electric Heat Pumps through Unique Financing and Third-party Installation and Maintenance

PUBLIC 446

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GROHMAN M WOODSOME D	OTP-AM ONTP	H-586