

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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STAFF:

DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

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

to acquire efficient electric heat pumps from third party sellers or installer to be used to reduce the total installation cost of such heats. It requires that the sale, installation and maintenance of a heat pump are to occur through third party sellers and installers chosen by the customer. This law specifies that a qualified heat pump installer is any installer that is listed as a registered vendor by the Efficiency Maine Trust for purposes of heat pump installations or as determined by the commission by rule if the Efficiency Maine Trust does not maintain a registry of vendors.

This law prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from disconnecting for delinquent payments electric service to a heat pump serving as the only heating source for the customer during the winter. This law allows a participating customer to elect to have that customer's heat pump removed at any time at no cost or penalty. It requires that a transmission and distribution utility must provide participating customers a plain language notice that they have the option to buy the heat pump at reasonable terms approved by the commission. This law requires that a plain language notice be provided before a customer elects to participate in the program that compares the costs of the program with the costs of directly purchasing a heat pump, including any applicable rebates or incentives available for purchasing such equipment.

This law requires that upon request from the commission, a transmission and distribution utility that implements a program under this law must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the program is meeting requirements. It also requires the utility to provide a triennial report to the commission outlining the degree to which the program is meeting the needs of customers, including the needs of customers targeted under this legislation.

This law repeals the provision of Public Law 2011, chapter 637 that allows transmission and distribution utilities to develop and implement similar pilot programs.

LD 1585

An Act To Improve Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing by Updating the Laws Governing Qualifications for Certain Members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council

PUBLIC 398

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS R MASON G	OTP	

This bill changes the qualifications of four members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council to reflect changes in the State regarding advocates for persons with disabilities, telecommunications relay services and the Internet and wireless and cable telecommunications.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 398 changes the qualifications of four members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council to reflect changes in the State regarding advocates for persons with disabilities, telecommunications relay services and the Internet and wireless and cable telecommunications.

LD 1649

An Act To Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-666
	OTP-AM	S-522 WOODSOME D
	OTP-AM	

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 37, section 2. The resolve directed the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to develop an alternative to net energy billing. This bill