

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH 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 128th 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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 55 An Act To Provide Funding for the Restoration of China Lake

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THERIAULT T CYRWAY S	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to charge a fee to customers of the Kennebec Water District to be used to restore the water quality of China Lake. Under the bill, the fee would be charged on the use of water on a per gallon basis and would be for a limited number of years.

**LD 58 An Act To Limit Radio Frequency Interference from Certain Grow
Light Ballasts**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KINNEY J DIAMOND B	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to limit the use of any grow light ballast that does not comply with Federal Communications Commission rules and interferes with short-wave radio transmissions.

LD 90 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Rumford Water District

**Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KEIM L MADIGAN J	OTP-AM ONTP	S-54

This bill requires that all proposed commercial contracts of the Rumford Water District for water extraction or water resale be subject to a vote by the voters of the district. For the vote to be valid, the total number of votes cast must be at least 60% of the number of votes cast for Governor by the voters of the district at the last gubernatorial election.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-54)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee, and it strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment also removes the emergency status from the bill. It allows the trustees of the Rumford Water District to submit to the legal voters of the district the question of whether the charter for the district should be amended to require that the legal voters of the district elect trustees, instead of having trustees appointed by the municipal officers as the charter currently requires. This amendment specifies that if a referendum is called, it must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections. If the referendum is called and a majority of the legal voters vote to change the charter to allow for the election of district trustees, the amendment contains transition language that allows the currently serving appointed trustees to finish out their terms, and any unplanned vacancy is filled through the election process established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6410, subsection 1.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-226)

This amendment allows the municipal officers of the Town of Rumford, instead of the board of trustees of the Rumford Water District, as in the committee amendment, to submit to the legal voters of the district the question of whether the charter for the district should be amended to require that the legal voters of the district elect trustees, instead of having trustees appointed by the municipal officers as the charter currently requires.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 104 An Act To Change the Time and Location of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Kittery Water District P & S 1

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RYKERSON D HILL D	OTP	

This bill changes the annual meeting of the Kittery Water District to a time to be determined by the board of trustees and changes the meeting location from the selectmen's office to the office of the water district.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2017, chapter 1 changes the annual meeting of the Kittery Water District to a time to be determined by the board of trustees and changes the meeting location from the selectmen's office to the office of the water district.

LD 131 An Act To Protect the Biomass Industry CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO T DUCHESNE R		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to amend the laws governing biomass facilities in order to help the biomass industry succeed.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 128th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1138.

LD 140 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Entrepreneurial Activity, Attract Business and Enhance Demographic In-migration by Investing in High-speed Broadband Infrastructure and To Amend the Law Governing the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N BELLOWS S		

This bill, in Part A, authorizes a General Fund bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, to be allocated to the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund and distributed by the ConnectME Authority through implementation grants in order to expand high-speed broadband Internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved