

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**

August 2017

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST 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 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

the committee is authorized to submit a bill based on the report.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-189)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee, and it replaces the bill. It caps the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee that is contributed to the telecommunications education access fund at 21¢ per retail transaction and caps the fee levied on voice network service providers other than prepaid wireless telecommunications service providers to no more than 21¢ per month per line or number, assessed as a monthly surcharge. The amendment requires the Department of Education and the Maine State Library to jointly submit a report by January 15, 2018, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes detailed information on how the telecommunications education access fund is used. Lastly, this amendment specifies that, notwithstanding the current prohibition under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7104-B, subsection 2-A on the Public Utilities Commission's adjusting the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee more than once every 24 months, the commission is required to adjust the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee to conform to the change made by this amendment.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-190)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee, and it replaces the bill. It provides a one-time appropriation to the Maine State Library to support the Maine School and Library Network, a service of Networkmaine within the University of Maine System. It also directs the Maine State Library to convene a stakeholder group to look at alternatives to funding the Maine School and Library Network that do not involve surcharges or fees. This amendment requires the stakeholder group to submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 15, 2018.

This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 244 caps the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee that is contributed to the telecommunications education access fund at 21¢ per retail transaction and caps the fee levied on voice network service providers other than prepaid wireless telecommunications service providers to no more than 21¢ per month per line or number, assessed as a monthly surcharge. This law requires the Department of Education and the Maine State Library to jointly submit a report by January 15, 2018, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes detailed information on how the telecommunications education access fund is used. Lastly, this law specifies that, notwithstanding the current prohibition under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7104-B, subsection 2-A on the Public Utilities Commission's adjusting the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee more than once every 24 months, the commission is required to adjust the prepaid wireless telecommunications service fee to conform to the change made by this law.

LD 257

An Act To Enable Municipalities Working with Utilities To Establish Microgrids

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M MIRAMANT D		

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

This bill proposes to establish measures to allow municipalities, working cooperatively with electrical utilities, to create microgrids, which are electricity distribution systems consisting of distributed energy sources, including demand management, storage and generation and loads capable of operating in parallel with, or independently from, the main power grid. This bill would address the following requirements:

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

1. The generation of electricity from renewable sources into the microgrid;
2. Methods for adding capacity for storage and managing or enabling a utility to manage the charging of the microgrid and the use of the stored power;
3. An appropriate rate for power generation and stored power usage;
4. A credit applicable toward municipal electricity utilization or assignable to organizations or households according to municipal public service decisions; and
5. Contracts with utilities to receive compensation for scheduling or shedding of electrical load in order to lower peak demand and consequently ratepayer prices.

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

LD 258 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District

P & S 4

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA W LANGLEY B	OTP-AM	H-15

This bill increases from three to five the number of trustees of the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15)

This amendment requires the board of selectmen for the Town of Southwest Harbor to stagger the terms of the two new appointed trustees to the board of trustees for the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District. It requires one trustee to serve for a term of one year and one trustee to serve for a term of two years.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2017, chapter 4 increases from three to five the number of trustees of the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District and requires the board of selectmen for the Town of Southwest Harbor to stagger the terms of the two new appointed trustees by having one trustees serve for a term of one year and one trustee to serve for a term of two years.

LD 259 An Act To Limit Rates Charged by Competitive Electricity Providers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N LIBBY N	ONTP	

This bill prohibits a competitive electricity provider from charging a residential consumer a rate for generation service that is higher than the rate charged for standard-offer service.