

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 131 An Act To Protect the Biomass Industry

ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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.

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

ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Part A of this bill 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 areas.

Part B of the bill limits the use of the funds under Part A to implementation grants awarded from the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund and requires the grants to be expended on open-access nondiscriminatory broadband infrastructure in unserved or underserved areas.

Part C of the bill amends the laws establishing the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund to require planning grant applicants to provide a summary of how the network will be built, operated and maintained, and a postconstruction plan describing the continued operation and maintenance of newly built infrastructure. Part C specifies that an implementation grant may not exceed \$200,000 for each municipality served by an eligible project selected for funding; it no longer requires an applicant for an implementation grant to have received a planning grant from the ConnectME Authority, as long as they meet other planning grant requirements; and it allows municipally financed planning expenditures to be used towards the 25% cash match requirement for an implementation grant. The changes made in Part C are contingent on the ratification of the bond issue in Part A by the voters of the State.

LD 257 An Act To Allow Microgrids That Are in the Public Interest

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN M MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM ONTP	H-720

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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:

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-720)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and it replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to approve a petition to construct and operate a new microgrid if the commission finds the proposal to be in the public interest and the new microgrid meets other specified requirements. It provides the commission with the ability to impose such terms, conditions or requirements as, in its judgment, it considers necessary in approving a new microgrid and also gives the commission oversight to ensure reliability and security of the electrical system and consumer protections for new microgrid consumers. It specifies that a new microgrid does not become a public utility as a result of its furnishing electrical service to participating consumers. It provides that a new microgrid that has been approved by the commission may construct, maintain or operate its lines in, upon, along, over, across or under the roads and streets. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters by January 15, 2020, detailing its activities related to new microgrids.

LD 260 An Act To Create the Maine Energy Office

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FREDETTE K	OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. It was reported out of committee in the Second Regular Session and then carried over to the next special session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill:

1. Renames the Governor's Energy Office the Maine Energy Office. It repeals the language in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2 that establishes the office and establishes it instead in Title 35-A, expands the headnote for Title 35-A and places the office under the control and supervision of a commissioner, rather than a director;