

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> 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

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 686**

**An Act To Remove Restrictions on the Membership of Regional Water Councils**

**PUBLIC 58**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M BELLOWS S	OTP-AM	H-75

This bill amends the laws regarding the authorization of regional water councils to remove the provision restricting membership to water utilities.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It defines "water-related entity" as a water utility or a municipal or quasi-municipal entity owning, controlling, operating or managing sewer, sanitary or storm water works. It allows for a water-related entity to be a member of a regional water council and requires that one of the members of a regional water council be a water utility. It requires that a regional water council provide a statement of its financial activities to the member water-related entities and requires that the statement must also be filed with the Public Utilities Commission and the drinking water program of the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 58 allows a water-related entity to be a member of a regional water council and requires that one of the members of a regional water council be a water utility. It requires that a regional water council provide a statement of its financial activities to the member water-related entities and requires that the statement must also be filed with the Public Utilities Commission and the drinking water program of the Department of Health and Human Services.

**LD 754**

**An Act To Repeal or Clean Up Outdated Telecommunications Statutes**

**PUBLIC 73**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S WOODSOME D	OTP-AM	H-95

This bill updates the law regarding interstate and intrastate telecommunications access rates. The bill also repeals obsolete provisions of law requiring persons providing intrastate interexchange service to reduce their intrastate long-distance rates in the absence of effective competition, prohibiting mandatory local measured telephone service, prohibiting the Public Utilities Commission from requiring a local exchange carrier to consider competitive bids on the construction of an interexchange facility, prohibiting a telephone utility offering intrastate toll service from increasing prices without filing a tariff revision with the commission and providing subscribers written notice and prohibiting a provider of prepaid calling service from increasing rates on already purchased service and requiring notice to prepaid calling service consumers about differences between in-state and interstate service rates.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-95)**

This amendment retains the provisions of the bill and does the following.

1. It specifies that the valuation of property for fixing rates does not apply to price cap incumbent local exchange carriers, as those rates are set in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A;
2. It changes language in the bill as it relates to access rates;
3. It repeals the provision of law related to customer premise wire; and