

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 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

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

4. It limits a requirement in current law for provider of last resort service providers to offer telephone directories in an electronic format or as a printout of an electronic database to apply only to those provider of last resort service providers that discontinue publishing a hard-copy directory.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 73 does the following.

1. It updates the law regarding interstate and intrastate telecommunications access rates;
2. It 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, 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, and relating to customerpremise wire;
3. 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; and
4. It limits a requirement in current law for provider of last resort service providers to offer telephone directories in an electronic format or as a printout of an electronic database to apply only to those provider of last resort service providers that discontinue publishing a hard-copy directory.

LD 755 An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Nontransmission Alternatives Investigations Required for Proposed Transmission Lines and Projects

PUBLIC 201

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S WOODSOME D	OTP-AM	H-424

This bill changes the timing of the nontransmission alternatives investigation required for proposed transmission line projects. The bill requires the investigation to be done during the course of the proceeding to consider the petition for approval of a proposed transmission line instead of being done prior to filing that petition.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-424)

This amendment does the following.

1. It extends from six months to nine months the time the Public Utilities Commission has to issue an order for a petition for the approval of a proposed line;
2. It changes the timing of a nontransmission alternatives investigation required for proposed transmission projects by requiring the investigation be completed during the course of the proceeding to consider the petition for an approval of a proposed transmission project instead of being done prior to filing that petition; and
3. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue an order in an adjudicatory proceeding regarding the investigation into the designation of a nontransmission alternatives coordinator and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 1, 2018 on the outcome of that proceeding.