

# 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**

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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*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-343)**

This amendment instead of simply stating that a sewer or sanitary district may invest its funds to the same extent as a municipality, includes the applicable provisions from the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 223, subchapter 3-A in the statutes governing sewer and sanitary districts.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 151 clarifies the authority of sewer districts and sanitary districts to administer financial resources. It allows sewer districts and sanitary districts to invest their funds in a similar manner as municipalities. It clarifies that sewer districts have full authority to collect rates and fees.

**LD 802      An Act To Strengthen the Independence of the Public Advocate      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN R	ONTP	

This bill establishes the Public Advocate Advisory Board. The board consists of three members, one appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The board appoints the Public Advocate to a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the Legislature, and provides policy guidance to the Public Advocate. The Public Advocate's first six-year term begins February 1, 2018.

**LD 803      An Act To Improve Transparency in the Electricity Supply Market      PUBLIC 74**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY N HIGGINS N	OTP-AM	S-49

This bill:

1. Makes the following changes to protect consumers that choose generation service through a competitive electricity provider:
  - A. It requires the competitive electricity provider to disclose to the consumer if the rate of generation service is higher than the standard-offer service rate;
  - B. It requires the competitive electricity provider to send a renewal notice to the consumer for generation service by certified mail, return receipt requested; and
  - C. It prohibits the competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service without express consent from the consumer;
2. Requires that the monthly utility bill for a consumer that elects to receive generation service from a competitive electricity provider contain the following:
  - A. The rate for generation service charged by the competitive electricity provider displayed along with the standard-offer service rate; and