

# 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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## 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*

- A. It requires the competitive electricity provider to disclose to the consumer where the consumer can obtain information to compare the service provided by the provider with standard-offer service;
  - B. It prohibits the competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service if it fails to provide that consumer with a notice of renewal in advance by mail;
  - C. It requires that, if a competitive electricity provider renews a contract for generation service at a fixed rate that is 20% or more above the contract rate in the expiring contract without express consent, the consumer must be transferred to standard-offer service;
  - D. It requires that, if a competitive electricity provider renews a contract for generation service for a term that is longer than the term of the expiring contract or 12 months, whichever is shorter, without express consent, the consumer must be transferred to standard-offer service; and
  - E. It prohibits a competitive electricity provider from imposing an early termination fee for a contract that was renewed without express consent;
2. Requires that the monthly utility bill for a residential consumer that elects to receive generation service from a competitive electricity provider contain the following:
- A. A website address or other resource where a consumer can obtain information, as determined by the Public Utilities Commission, that provides independent information that allows residential consumers to compare terms, conditions and rates of electricity supply; and
  - B. A statement that directs the consumer to the competitive electricity provider for more information on the consumer's contract and that provides the telephone number of the competitive electricity provider; and
3. Requires the commission in consultation with the Public Advocate to determine the difference in price, if any, residential consumers paid for generation service by purchasing from a competitive electricity provider instead of receiving standard-offer service between 2014 and 2016; where possible, state if and how the product purchased by the consumer differed from the standard-offer service; and submit its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 15, 2018.

**LD 822**

**An Act To Ensure Fairness among Large Consumers of Natural Gas**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)

DION M  
HARVELL L

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill extends the existing ineligibility for participation in and the exemption from assessment for natural gas conservation programs to large-volume customers that do not purchase their natural gas from a Maine gas utility. Large-volume customers are defined as those purchasing at least 1,000,000 centum cubic feet of natural gas per year.

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