

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**

August 2017

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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

that the funds be used in whole or in part to provide grants for the installation of light-duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment. It requires that grants funded with the trust funds be disbursed to projects that meet certain preferential selection criteria. It allows the Department of Transportation to disburse funds for the installation of light-duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment within an existing program or a new program developed in consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust. Lastly, it requires that the Department of Transportation submit by January 15, 2018, a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology describing the status of the State's beneficiary mitigation plan, the plan to use funds for a new or existing grant program and the need, if any, for legislation for a grant program.

LD 1124 An Act To Promote the Development of Solar Energy in Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BREEN C PIERCE T	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to promote the development of solar energy in the State.

LD 1147 An Act To Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard PUBLIC 291

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DECHANT J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-272 S-290 DION M

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to modernize the renewable portfolio standard. The bill proposes to continue the current renewable portfolio standard level from January 2017 to December 2028.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-272)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee, and it replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It extends the new renewable capacity resources portfolio requirement through 2028.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-290)

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" to extend the new renewable capacity resources portfolio requirement through 2022 rather than 2028 as in the committee amendment.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 291 extends the new renewable capacity resources portfolio requirement through 2022.

LD 1151 An Act To Allow Promotional Allowances by Gas Utilities PUBLIC 83

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIOT M DION M	OTP-AM	H-151

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill allows public utilities to offer or provide promotional allowances, such as rebates, discounts or similar reductions, to their customers or potential customers. The Public Utilities Commission is directed to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this bill.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-151)

This amendment replaces the bill. It allows a gas utility to offer a promotional allowance, instead of a public utility as proposed in the bill, and the rate for that promotional allowance takes effect when the schedule of rates is filed with the Public Utilities Commission and provided to the Efficiency Maine Trust, unless a later effective date is specified. A gas utility does not need to provide prior notice or receive approval from the commission in order to offer a promotional allowance.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 83 allows a gas utility to offer a promotional allowance, and the rate for that promotional allowance takes effect when the schedule of rates is filed with the Public Utilities Commission and provided to the Efficiency Maine Trust, unless a later effective date is specified. Under this law, a gas utility does not need to provide prior notice or receive approval from the Public Utilities Commission in order to offer a promotional allowance.

LD 1157 An Act To Create a Limited Microgrid Project To Stimulate Economic Development in Northern Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T	ONTP	

This bill establishes a limited microgrid program in northern Maine. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to establish by rule a program that would allow the creation of small transmission or distribution systems connecting an electricity generator with one or more industrial consumers located in close proximity to the generator, allowing for the sale or transfer of electricity from the generator to those consumers without use of the system of the transmission and distribution utility. The commission is directed to report annually to the Legislature on the program and whether it should be continued, expanded, limited or discontinued.

LD 1176 An Act To Ensure the Safety of Low-income Persons Who Are Deaf and Who Use Video and Captioned Phones by Providing Equitable Access to the Internet CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DION M TALBOT ROSS R		

This bill requires communications service providers to provide a 70% price reduction on all broadband services provided to a low-income person who is deaf.

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