

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. 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 1372

Resolve, To Increase Digital Literacy Education in Rural Communities

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HERBIG E MAKER J	OTP-AM	H-703

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. This bill was reported out of committee in the Second Regular Session and carried over to the next special session on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order S.P. 748.

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

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase broadband access for rural communities. Specifically, this bill proposes to:

1. Direct the ConnectME Authority to create an accurate map of broadband coverage in the State. The mapping project should delineate, at a minimum:
 - A. Those areas of the State that do not have access to broadband coverage;
 - B. For those areas of the State without access to broadband coverage, the infrastructure in place that might be used to expand access, including, but not limited to, poles, nodes, and fiber optic cable; and
 - C. For those areas of the State with access to broadband coverage, the type or types of available broadband coverage and the associated connection speeds; and
2. Direct the ConnectME Authority to provide funding for the provision of digital literacy programs, particularly in rural areas of the State. A digital literacy program funded pursuant to this requirement must have a history of success in increasing fluency in the use and security of interactive digital tools and searchable networks, including the ability to use digital tools safely and effectively for learning, collaborating and producing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-703)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the ConnectME Authority to establish digital literacy education pilot programs in rural areas. It specifies that programs may not be established for more than three years, except that the authority may extend a program by up to one year. It requires the authority to report, by January 1, 2022, on the success of the pilot programs and include in the report recommendations for a permanent, statewide program and the cost of such a program. It allows the committee of jurisdiction to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

LD 1373

An Act To Protect and Expand Access to Solar Power in Maine

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S DION M	ONTP	

This bill was delivered to the House pursuant to Joint Rule 309 without a committee report and then recommitted to the committee in the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature; it was then carried over from the First Regular