

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

This bill requires public entities constructing or causing to be constructed certain construction projects to install or cause to be installed broadband conduit as part of the construction project. Construction projects covered include projects to construct new or replace existing water or sewer lines in the right-of-way of a highway or public road; to construct a new highway or public road; or to construct or relocate an additional lane or shoulder for an existing highway or public road. The bill authorizes public entities to lease the installed broadband conduit to broadband providers to install fiber-optic or other cables that support broadband and wireless facilities for broadband service. The bill directs the ConnectME Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation, to provide technical and educational assistance and requires the ConnectME Authority to maintain a map of broadband conduit installation in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-643)

This amendment replaces the bill. It requires an applicant for a permit for a proposed underground facility in excess of 500 feet in length to provide notice to the ConnectME Authority. Notice must include a description and the location of the proposed project and must be provided within five business days of submitting an application with the applicable licensing authority. The ConnectME Authority is required to disseminate the information it receives regarding the underground facility in a manner that ensures all parties that may be interested in installing a broadband conduit have access to that information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 344 requires an applicant for a permit for a proposed underground facility in excess of 500 feet in length to provide notice to the ConnectME Authority. It specifies that notice must include a description and the location of the proposed project and must be provided within five business days of submitting an application with the applicable licensing authority. It requires the ConnectME Authority to disseminate the information it receives regarding the underground facility in a manner that ensures all parties that may be interested in installing a broadband conduit have access to that information.

LD 1487

An Act To Control Electricity Transmission Costs through the Development of Nontransmission Alternatives

**Died On
Adjournment**

Sponsor(s)

DION M

Committee Report

OTP-AM
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

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

This bill changes the requirement regarding the development, implementation, operation and management of nontransmission alternatives for proposed transmission lines and proposed transmission projects. This bill requires that a smart grid coordinator appointed by the Public Utilities Commission develop a nontransmission alternative to a proposed transmission line or proposed transmission project.

The bill provides that a smart grid coordinator must be an entity incorporated in the State; may not be a transmission and distribution utility located in the State or an affiliate of a transmission and distribution utility located in the State; and must have a demonstrated record of developing, operating and managing nontransmission alternatives.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-435)

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It amends the legislative findings provision of the laws regarding declaration of policy on smart grid infrastructure to state that it is in the public interest to establish a single, independent smart grid coordinator. It directs the Office of the Public Advocate to convene a stakeholder

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

group to evaluate options and prepare recommendations for certain issues related to the efficient and effective implementation of smart grid policy, including addressing costs and financial incentives of transmission and distribution utilities and the smart grid coordinator and describing roles for the Public Advocate, Efficiency Maine Trust and transmission and distribution utilities with regard to nonwires alternatives and other smart grid functions. It also prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from implementing any final decisions related to rate proposals received pursuant to the commission's order of December 15, 2017 in the Public Utilities Commission's Docket No. 2016-00049 from any transmission and distribution utility until 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD 1515 An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses by Amending the ONTP
Laws Governing Spending from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
Trust Fund**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WADSWORTH N	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This bill establishes a ceiling on energy efficiency spending from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund; provides for transfers from the trust fund to Maine-based energy-intensive businesses, in addition to transfers to affected customers; requires that funds over a certain amount be distributed to ratepayers; and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt implementing rules. This bill also authorizes the trust, during fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, to deviate from the allocation requirements set forth in the statutes and instead allocate those funds to the programs that the trust determines.

**LD 1610 An Act To Protect Privacy of Online Customer Personal Information Died Between
Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELLOWS S CASAS O	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This bill prohibits a provider of broadband Internet access service from using, disclosing, selling or permitting access to customer personal information unless the customer expressly consents to that use, disclosure, sale or access. The bill provides other exceptions under which a provider may use, disclose, sell or permit access to customer personal information. The bill prohibits a provider from refusing to serve a customer, charging a customer a penalty or offering a customer a discount if the customer does or does not consent to the use, disclosure, sale or access. The bill requires providers to take reasonable measures to protect customer personal information from unauthorized use, disclosure, sale or access. The provisions of the bill apply to providers operating within the State when providing broadband Internet access service to customers that are billed for service received in the State and are physically located in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-453)

This amendment is the majority report and it replaces the bill. It prohibits the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services from entering into a contract for the purchase of broadband Internet access service from any provider that engages in the inappropriate use, sale or disclosure of or access to customer personal information. It requires any provider that contracts with the State for broadband Internet access service to