

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<sup>TH</sup> 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**

October 2018

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<sup>TH</sup> 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 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 dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-707)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. This amendment strikes from the bill language that changes the definition of "expedited permitting area" to mean specified places that are identified by rule and the eastern portion of Aroostook County. This amendment also provides that 15 miles, instead of 40 miles as proposed in the bill, is the farthest distance from a proposed expedited wind energy development for which a visual impact assessment for potentially affected scenic resources of state or national significance may be required.

**LD 1814 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Lisbon Water Department**

**P & S 13**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G MASON R	OTP	

This bill aligns the terms of office of the water commissioners of the Lisbon Water Department with those of the members of the Lisbon Town Council.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2017, chapter 13 aligns the terms of office of the water commissioners of the Lisbon Water Department with those of the members of the Lisbon Town Council.

**LD 1830 An Act To Amend the Anson and Madison Water District Charter**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN B WHITTEMORE R	ONTP	

This bill amends the charter of the Anson and Madison Water District to remove from the provision governing a quorum of the board of trustees the requirement that two trustees must be from Anson and two trustees must be from Madison.

**LD 1848 An Act To Extend Arrearage Management Programs**

**PUBLIC 414**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-708

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2-A. The law required the Public Utilities Commission to provide the committee with a report assessing the effectiveness of arrearage management programs and provides the committee with the authority to report out a bill relating to the report.

This bill extends arrearage management programs and the requirement that the Efficiency Maine Trust provide access to a complementary low-income energy efficiency program for participants in arrearage management programs to September 30, 2021. It establishes a new reporting requirement for the Public Utilities Commission and gives the committee authority to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report. It also clarifies that rules adopted by the commission must ensure that a transmission and distribution utility recovers its prudent costs for third party assistance in administering an arrearage management program and

**Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

must permit a transmission and distribution utility to recover its prudent costs for providing financial and budgetary guidance to participating customers, even if the transmission and distribution utility has a third party provide that guidance on its behalf.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-708)**

This amendment makes implementation of an arrearage management program elective for consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities. It also clarifies language regarding the recovery in rates of reasonable costs associated with an arrearage management program.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 414 extends arrearage management programs and the requirement that the Efficiency Maine Trust provide access to a complementary low-income energy efficiency program for participants in arrearage management programs to September 30, 2021. It makes implementation of an arrearage management program elective for consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities. It establishes a new reporting requirement for the Public Utilities Commission and gives the committee authority to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report. It also clarifies that rules adopted by the commission must ensure that a transmission and distribution utility recovers its prudent costs for third party assistance in administering an arrearage management program and must permit a transmission and distribution utility to recover its prudent costs for providing financial and budgetary guidance to participating customers, even if the transmission and distribution utility has a third party provide that guidance on its behalf.

**LD 1872 An Act To Enhance the Operations of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council**

**PUBLIC 408  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM ONTP	H-758

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4 to implement the recommendations made by the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council in its report provided to the committee pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act.

This bill does the following.

1. It changes the name of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council to the Telecommunications Relay Services Council.
2. It establishes the Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund.
3. It allows members and individuals to be reimbursed for costs associated with participation in conferences related to telecommunications relay services and telecommunications devices or technologies for the deaf and hard of hearing.
4. It removes the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission provide technical assistance to the council.
5. It allows the council to pay costs associated with scheduled meetings.
6. It explicitly defines duties of the council to include the ability to contract for intrastate telecommunications relay services and outreach services, to organize and fund projects to promote the use of telecommunications relay services and to develop, administer and fund pilot projects to provide access to telecommunications relay services.