

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES
AND TECHNOLOGY**

August 2019

STAFF:

LUCIA NIXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE, CHAIR
SEN. DAVID R. MIRAMANT
SEN. DAVID WOODSOME

REP. SETH A. BERRY, CHAIR
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. CHRISTINA RILEY
REP. CHRISTOPHER JAMES CAIAZZO
REP. VICTORIA W. DOUDERA
REP. NICOLE GROHOSKI
REP. CHRISTOPHER J. KESSLER
REP. JEFFERY P. HANLEY
REP. CHAD WAYNE GRIGNON
REP. STEVEN D. FOSTER

STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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 129th 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 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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

qualified libraries in rural areas of the State with greatest need, as determined in consultation with the State Librarian, the Commissioner of Education and the ConnectME Authority, to offer portable wireless access points, or hotspots, for mobile Internet access.

Public Law 2019, chapter 52 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 23, 2019.

LD 173 An Act To Promote Economic Development and Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCREA D CARSON B		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to increase funding to the ConnectME Authority from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to expand universal broadband and high-speed Internet into rural areas identified as the 6% of the State unserved by high-speed Internet. This bill proposes to make expanding high-speed Internet into unserved rural areas a key emphasis in the economic development of and to multiply the return to the State by directing the ConnectME Authority to use the increased funding to increase the rate of strategic broadband investment and leverage additional federal funding to provide middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure in the unserved areas and to correct broadband deficiencies identified in the ConnectME Authority's baseline update of 2013.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 196 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission RESOLVE 19 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-75

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)

This amendment allows for the final adoption of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission, as long as the commission amends the rule to require:

1. Utilities to keep all records required by the rule for 10 years, rather than 6 years; and
2. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to maintain and report the System Average Interruption Duration Index in addition to other metrics required.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 19 allows for the final adoption of portions of Chapter 320: Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission, as long as the commission amends the rule to require:

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

1. Utilities to keep all records required by the rule for 10 years, rather than 6 years; and
2. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to maintain and report the System Average Interruption Duration Index in addition to other metrics required.

Resolve 2019, chapter 19 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2019.

LD 224 An Act To Fund the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access ONTP
Fund

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HIGGINS N BELLOWS S	ONTP	

This bill provides funds to the ConnectME Authority to be used to provide grants to municipalities for high-speed broadband infrastructure development and improvement.

LD 271 An Act Regarding a Transmission and Distribution Utility's Use of the ONTP
Right of Eminent Domain To Locate Its Transmission Lines

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D EVANGELOS J	ONTP	

This bill withholds the right of eminent domain from a transmission and distribution utility for lands or easements to be acquired for an elective transmission upgrade that is not required for reliability of service to customers in the State or the ISO-New England region.

LD 273 An Act To Require Transmission and Distribution Utilities To Purchase ONTP
Electricity from Renewable Resources at Certain Prices

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D	ONTP	

This bill requires a transmission and distribution utility, at the request of the owner of a renewable resource, to purchase the electricity generated by that renewable resource at a price per kilowatt-hour that is 50% of the average cost per kilowatt-hour to generate electricity using a fossil fuel in this State.

LD 334 An Act To Change the Definition of "Renewable Capacity Resource" ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BABINE S CHIPMAN B	ONTP	

This bill aligns the definition of "renewable capacity resource" with that of "renewable resource" in the laws governing renewable energy by adding generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling to the definition of "renewable capacity resource."