

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
129<sup>TH</sup> 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

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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 129<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 date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129<sup>th</sup> 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*

**LD 581      An Act To Direct Electric Utilities To Provide Comparative Usage Data  
on Customer Billing Statements**

**PUBLIC 81**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RISEMAN W MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM	H-108

This bill requires a transmission and distribution utility to provide on the utility's billing statement to a customer information concerning the previous 24 months of the customer's energy usage comparing same-month usage data between the first year of usage and the second year of usage.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-108)**

This amendment limits the applicability of the requirements of the bill to investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, rather than all transmission and distribution utilities, and to customer bills for residential, small commercial and medium commercial customers, rather than all customers. The amendment also allows the Public Utilities Commission to waive the requirements if it finds these requirements to be unduly burdensome or cost-prohibitive for an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility for the portion of the utility's service territory located in an area of this State in which the retail market is administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 81 requires an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to provide on the utility's billing statement to a residential, small commercial or medium commercial customer information concerning the previous 24 months of the customer's energy usage comparing same-month usage data between the first year of usage and the second year of usage. It allows the Public Utilities Commission to waive these requirements if it finds they are unduly burdensome or cost-prohibitive for an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility for the portion of the utility's service territory located in an area of this State in which the retail market is administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine.

**LD 614      An Act To Increase Electric Vehicles in Maine**

**PUBLIC 258**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
INGWERSEN H	OTP-AM ONTP	H-300

This bill establishes an electric vehicle rebate program to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust that, beginning July 1, 2020, allows a person who purchases or leases an eligible battery electric vehicle to apply for and, as resources allow, receive a direct rebate of \$2,500 if the person meets certain eligibility criteria. The bill also provides a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to support the direct rebates to be made available under the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-300)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, makes the following changes to the electric vehicle rebate program and the associated fund established in the bill:

1. Adds plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to the definition of eligible electric vehicle;
2. Removes the requirement that an eligible vehicle be a "new" vehicle;

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

- 3. Limits the \$50,000 cap on the manufacturer's suggested retail price to vehicles that have a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less;
- 4. Removes the program start date of July 1, 2020;
- 5. Removes the fixed rebate amount of \$2,500 and instead requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to determine the rebate amount, which may vary by the size of the vehicle battery. It also permits the trust to establish different rebate amounts to provide opportunities for participation in the program across different customer groups and geographic areas;
- 6. Revises the eligibility criteria regarding registration of a vehicle in the State;
- 7. Adds language to specify that the trust may set limits on the number of rebates per person or per vehicle;
- 8. Removes the provision of the bill that provides a \$500,000 General Fund appropriation to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Fund; and
- 9. Establishes the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund, administered by Efficiency Maine Trust, to increase the availability and effectiveness of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 258 establishes an electric vehicle rebate program to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to determine the rebate amount, which may vary by the size of the vehicle battery and permits the trust to establish different rebate amounts to provide opportunities for participation in the program across different customer groups and geographic areas. This law also establishes the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund, administered by Efficiency Maine Trust, to increase the availability and effectiveness of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State.

**LD 658      Resolve, To Increase Energy Independence for Maine**

**RESOLVE 30**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUBBELL B DOW D	OTP-AM	H-170

This resolve directs the Governor's Energy Office to adopt a 10-year energy independence plan, including conservation and renewable energy strategies, for the State to become a net exporter of energy by 2030. It requires the office to develop the plan through a collaborative stakeholder process. The plan must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 31, 2019 along with suggested legislation necessary to implement the plan. The resolve authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the plan.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-170)**

This amendment replaces the resolve. The amendment directs the Governor's Energy Office, in coordination with the development of the state energy plan or other planning initiatives, to conduct an analysis for at least one scenario for the State to become a net exporter of energy by 2030 through the development and expansion of energy generating capacity, energy conservation and energy efficiency at levels sufficient to offset the total value of the State's domestic energy consumption across all sectors. The amendment requires the Governor's Energy Office to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 31, 2019 on progress regarding the state energy plan and the analysis for the State to become a net exporter of energy.

**Enacted Law Summary**