

# 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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# STATE OF MAINE

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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 694      An Act To Amend the Charter of the Town of Madison's Department of Electric Works      P & S 4**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARRIN B CURTIS P	OTP	

This bill replaces language in the charter of Town of Madison's Department of Electric Works regarding bonding authority to provide that it is the Department of Electric Works that issues bonds for its purposes and not the Town of Madison. The bill also removes the \$1,200,000 cap in the charter on the issuance of bonds or notes for current operating expenses.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2019, chapter 4 replaces language in the charter of Town of Madison's Department of Electric Works regarding bonding authority to provide that it is the Department of Electric Works that issues bonds for its purposes and not the Town of Madison. This law also removes the \$1,200,000 cap in the charter on the issuance of bonds or notes for current operating expenses.

**LD 743      An Act To Create Local Options in E-9-1-1 Protocol Mandates      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLUME L	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact certain measures designed to allow for increased flexibility in emergency dispatch protocols. Currently, structured, standardized call-taking processes are implemented to assess a caller's condition, scene information and the appropriate response to dispatch to the emergency. This bill would examine: whether protocol-based call-taking processes result, in certain instances, in delays in emergency response and the need for additional staffing; the extent to which the use of protocols improves or impedes the delivery of emergency services; any outstanding issues associated with appropriate and effective training in the use of emergency dispatch protocols; and the costs associated with the implementation of standardized police dispatch protocols that are borne by municipalities.

**LD 754      An Act To Ensure the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund Continues To Promote Energy Efficiency and Benefit Maine Ratepayers      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WADSWORTH N FOLEY R	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill reestablishes a ceiling on energy efficiency spending from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund that was repealed in 2013. The bill 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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-207)**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It adds an appropriations and allocations section to allow

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

expenditure of money for disbursements to affected customers, energy-intensive businesses and ratepayers.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 790      An Act To Eliminate the Cap on the Number of Accounts or Meters Designated for Net Energy Billing      CARRIED OVER**

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

This bill prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from adopting or amending net energy billing rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A to impose any limit on the number of accounts or meters that customers may designate for net energy billing or any limit on the number of customers that may share an interest in a generation facility for which the energy output is credited as part of any net energy billing.

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

**LD 807      An Act Regarding the Duties of the Public Advocate      PUBLIC 71**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT D NADEAU C	OTP-AM	S-38

This bill removes an exception to the Public Advocate's ability to petition to initiate, or intervene and appear in, any proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission, appeals from orders of the commission or proceedings before state and federal agencies and courts in which the subject matter of the action affects the customers of any utility or competitive service provider doing business in the State. Specifically, it removes the prohibition against the Public Advocate's intervening in any proceedings in which commission staff is representing a position substantially similar to that of the Public Advocate.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-38)**

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill. It provides an allocation to fund additional staff activities related to the expansion of the Office of the Public Advocate's duties in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission and other state and federal agencies and courts.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 71 removes an exception to the Public Advocate's ability to petition to initiate, or intervene and appear in, any proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission, appeals from orders of the commission or proceedings before state and federal agencies and courts in which the subject matter of the action affects the customers of any utility or competitive service provider doing business in the State. Specifically, it removes the prohibition against the Public Advocate's intervening in any proceedings in which commission staff is representing a position substantially similar to that of the Public Advocate.