

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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STATE OF MAINE

129TH LEGISLATURE
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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 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

LD 912 An Act To Establish the Wood Energy Investment Program

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T FECTEAU R	OTP-AM	S-193

This bill establishes the wood energy investment fund and creates the Wood Energy Investment Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust. The bill specifies that, if the Public Utilities Commission finds that an entity awarded a contract for biomass resources pursuant to Public Law 2015, chapter 483 is not meeting contract requirements and therefore is not qualified to receive the full contract payment or any contract payment, those funds that would have been paid had contract requirements been met must be transferred to the wood energy investment fund. It also specifies that any funds remaining in the cost recovery fund established in Public Law 2015, chapter 483, section 1, subsection 5 that are not needed to pay above-market costs for biomass resources must also be transferred by the Public Utilities Commission to the wood energy investment fund. It requires the trust to use funds from the fund, if there are any, to provide incentives and low-interest or no-interest loans for new wood-derived thermal energy or cogeneration projects. It requires that the trust consult with the Finance Authority of Maine, when appropriate, in the development of any Wood Energy Investment Program incentives and the distribution of money from the wood energy investment fund. It prohibits the use of funds for incentives or loans for the refurbishment or maintenance of existing facilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-193)

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section. The amendment allocates funds to establish the Wood Energy Fund within the Efficiency Maine Trust.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over in the Senate to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 918 An Act Regarding Utility Line Extensions

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KEIM L BERRY S	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill proposes to require transmission and distribution utilities to share the cost of utility line extensions to subdivision developments. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission, by rule, to require transmission and distribution utilities to cover the cost of a portion of a line extension either by providing a portion of the line extension free of charge, in the case of utility construction of the line extension, or providing a credit or reimbursement upon transfer of ownership of the line extension to the utility, in the case of a privately constructed line extension.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-68)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill. The amendment establishes requirements, through rulemaking by the Public Utilities Commission, for a one-time payment by a transmission and distribution utility to a person that constructs an underground line extension, subject to technical standards, upon the transfer of ownership of the line to the transmission and distribution utility. The payment must take into account the estimated reduction in maintenance costs for an underground line extension relative to an overhead line extension. This amendment was not adopted.