

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

No. 2010-00235, except for revisions necessary for the purposes of updating the contract in light of the passage of time and the maturation of the industry and facilitating the financing, construction and operation of the demonstration project in current circumstances, within the cost limitations established in Public Law 2009, chapter 615, while not increasing or decreasing the annual energy production cap or, except as needed to reasonably accommodate for construction inflation costs since 2014, the cost per kilowatt-hour previously set in the base energy price; and

4. The commission order the final draft contract to be executed by Maine Aqua Ventus and Central Maine Power Company within 90 days of the effective date of the resolve.

The resolve provides for the Public Utilities Commission to monitor the deep-water offshore wind energy pilot project developed by Maine Aqua Ventus and respond to requested future amendments to the contract in the context of accomplishing the objectives of Public Law 2009, chapter 615 and authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill related to deep-water offshore wind energy to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

LD 1003 An Act To Ensure Accurate Explanations of Electric Bills

PUBLIC 88

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S CHENETTE J	OTP-AM	H-101

This bill requires an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to obtain the approval of the Public Utilities Commission before providing information explaining electricity rate components to a customer. The bill requires the commission to ensure that the information provided to a customer accurately reflects the overall rate structure and cost components for the supply and delivery of electricity. The bill also requires the commission to receive input from the Public Advocate and other interested parties before approving or disapproving any written information provided by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to a customer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-101)

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to do the following:

1. Require investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to provide customers annually, as an insert or attachment to customer bills, an informational chart showing a 10-year history of transmission, distribution and standard-offer service rates available to the customer's rate class, along with a statement of the total percentage change in those rates over the 10-year period;
2. Require a customer bill issued by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to display clearly and prominently the toll-free telephone number for the commission's consumer assistance and safety division and a statement of the consumer assistance services available by calling the division; and
3. Establish a process for the commission, upon finding that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility has distributed information to customers that is misleading, deceptive or inaccurate, to require the transmission and distribution utility to provide customers a statement that corrects the misleading, deceptive or inaccurate information.

The amendment also requires the commission to post informational charts showing a 10-year history of electricity rate components on the commission's website.

Enacted Law Summary

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Public Law 2019, chapter 88 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to do the following:

1. Require investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to provide customers annually, as an insert or attachment to customer bills, an informational chart showing a 10-year history of transmission, distribution and standard-offer service rates available to the customer's rate class, along with a statement of the total percentage change in those rates over the 10-year period;
2. Require a customer bill issued by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to display clearly and prominently the toll-free telephone number for the commission's consumer assistance and safety division and a statement of the consumer assistance services available by calling the division; and
3. Establish a process for the commission, upon finding that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility has distributed information to customers that is misleading, deceptive or inaccurate, to require the transmission and distribution utility to provide customers a statement that corrects the misleading, deceptive or inaccurate information.

The law also requires the commission to post informational charts showing a 10-year history of electricity rate components on the commission's website.

LD 1027 An Act To Eliminate the 100-megawatt Limit on Hydroelectric Generators under the Renewable Resources Laws Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HANLEY J DOW D	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill removes the 100-megawatt capacity limit for a hydroelectric generator that meets all state and federal fish passage requirements applicable to generators to qualify as a renewable capacity resource and for a hydroelectric generator to qualify as a renewable resource for the purpose of meeting the State's renewable resource portfolio requirement.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-208)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment, which replaces the bill, removes the 100-megawatt capacity limit for a resource to qualify as a renewable resource or a renewable capacity resource for the purpose of meeting the State's renewable resource portfolio requirement.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1048 An Act To Encourage Conservation in Determining Natural Gas Rates Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN H COLLINGS B	ONTP OTP	

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission, in determining rates and rate structures for natural gas utilities, to consider energy conservation and financial incentives for customers to reduce natural gas consumption.