

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

current law sets compensation of the chair of the commission at the salary of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court and the other commissioners at the salary of an Associate Justice of the Superior Court.

The bill requires the commission, in the determination of utility rates, to limit rate increases to less than 10% in any 12-month period. The bill also prohibits costs associated with errors or mistakes that are the responsibility of a utility from being included or incorporated in operating expenses in the commission's determination of rates or rate-adjustment mechanisms.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-95)

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

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1127

An Act To Expand Community-based Solar Energy in Maine

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SANBORN H | | |

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts with community-based solar photovoltaic energy generating facilities. The total amount of resources procured through these long-term contracts may not exceed 100 megawatts, and 20% of resources procured must come from generators with a capacity of less than two megawatts. The bill requires the commission to establish provisions to protect the interests of utility customers over the term of the contracts.

The bill sets forth eligibility requirements for community-based solar resources to enter into long-term contracts. To be eligible, a resource must have a capacity of no more than 10 megawatts, have an in-service date between June 30, 2020 and December 31, 2021 and meet local ownership requirements. In addition, to be eligible, the owners of the resource must:

1. Demonstrate to the Public Utilities Commission completion of an interconnection agreement application with the local transmission and distribution utility;
2. Include a plan to obtain all required federal, state and local permits and approvals;
3. Demonstrate financial capability to operate the resource over the term of the contract;
4. Include a letter or resolution of support from the local community in which the resource is located; and
5. Outline expected economic benefits from the long-term contract to the local community in which the resource is located.

The bill establishes a minimum contract length of 20 years and requires the contract rate to be less than 9¢ per kilowatt-hour and fixed for a period of at least 20 years. Contracts may be for energy or capacity. The contracts may also include renewable energy credits, or the owners of the resource may retain the renewable energy credits associated with the resource, as determined by the owners. Finally, the bill specifies that available energy contracted for under the provisions of this bill must be sold into the wholesale electricity market in conjunction with solicitations for standard-offer supply bids.

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