

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 1231 An Act To Fund Energy Efficiency Programs through a Fee on the Sale of Unregulated Heating Fuels

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KESSLER C CHIPMAN B	ONTP OTP-AM	

Starting July 1, 2020, this bill imposes a fee of 1% on the wholesale sale price of heating oil, propane, coal, kerosene and dyed diesel fuel that is intended for residential or commercial heating purposes. The bill requires the revenue raised through the imposition of this fee to be used to provide additional funding for the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund, which is administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust for the purpose of reducing heating fuel consumption and providing energy efficiency and weatherization products and services to consumers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-607)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It adds language to clarify that the fee imposed by the bill is an exception to the tax exemption for heating fuels provided under the State sales and use tax law.
2. It removes dyed diesel fuel from the list of fuels subject to the fee.
3. It removes language that would have required a wholesaler to know the fuel at wholesale sale is intended for residential or commercial heating purposes.
4. It requires 20% of the revenue from the fee to go to the Maine State Housing Authority to assist eligible low-income households with heating costs under the fuel assistance program administered by the authority and 80% to go to the Efficiency Maine Trust for the Heating Fuel Efficiency and Weatherization Fund. In the bill 100% of the revenue is dedicated to the Efficiency Maine Trust.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1248 Resolve, To Direct the ConnectME Authority To Report on the Progress of the Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service in Maine

RESOLVE 33

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MORALES V	OTP-AM	H-168

This resolve directs the ConnectME Authority to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by January 19th in 2020, 2021 and 2022 outlining the progress of the authority in meeting the goals of its Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service in Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)

This amendment incorporates and aligns the reporting requirement in the resolve with the ConnectME Authority annual report, instead of requiring a separate report to the Legislature on the progress on the strategic plan.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 33 directs the ConnectME Authority, in 2020, 2021 and 2022, to include in its annual report due January 15th to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters information outlining the progress of the authority in meeting the goals of its Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service in Maine.

LD 1279 An Act To Modernize Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE M	ONTP	

This bill changes the requirements for a hydroelectric generator that meets all state and federal fish passage requirements to qualify as a renewable capacity resource for the purpose of meeting the State's new renewable capacity resource portfolio requirements as follows: it removes the 100-megawatt maximum capacity limit; it adds a 25-megawatt minimum capacity requirement; and it requires the hydroelectric generator to be located in the service territory of a transmission and distribution utility in this State. The bill also limits competitive electricity providers in the use of output from qualifying hydroelectric generators to meet the new renewable capacity resource portfolio requirements over a 15-year period, beginning with a limit of 25% of output from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and increasing by 5% each year to reach 100% as of January 1, 2035. The legislation has an effective date of January 1, 2020.

LD 1282 An Act To Establish a Green New Deal for Maine

PUBLIC 347

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAXMIN C BELLOWS S	OTP-AM ONTP	H-413 H-460 MAXMIN C

This bill does the following.

Part A requires competitive electricity providers to demonstrate, by 2040, that their portfolios of supply sources for retail electricity sales in this State are 80% accounted for by renewable resources. It also amends the State's goals for long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Part B creates the Task Force for a Green New Deal, which consists of 11 members including representatives of State Government, climate science, renewable energy, youth, labor and business. The task force is charged with creating a plan to advance environmental sustainability, renewable energy and economic growth for the State. The plan must include, but is not limited to, a renewable resources strategy to achieve 80% reliance on renewable resources for electricity supply by 2040; a job training strategy, including a training program to prepare workers for green jobs; and a residential energy strategy that provides incentives for installation of solar energy systems and heat pumps. The task force is required to submit a report on its plan by January 15, 2020 to the Governor, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Part C requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Efficiency Maine Trust to submit a report by January 1, 2020 that includes draft legislation to establish a virtual net metering program to encourage installation of solar photovoltaic energy systems on public school buildings.