

# 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**

1. It clarifies the definition of "beneficial electrification."
2. It clarifies that the Efficiency Maine Trust must conduct the study of barriers to beneficial electrification in consultation with stakeholders, rather than in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, and specifies that the commission is required to facilitate the trust's access to information the trust requests from electric and gas utilities.
3. It changes certain dates in the bill regarding the timeline for the study of beneficial electrification by the Efficiency Maine Trust and for pilot program proposals to implement beneficial electrification in the transportation sector administered by the Public Utilities Commission.
4. It adds language to clarify the review and selection of proposals for a pilot program for beneficial electrification in the transportation sector.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 365 amends provisions in the law regarding the conservation programs of the Efficiency Maine Trust by clarifying that conservation programs seek to increase the efficiency with which electricity is used and defining "beneficial electrification" as the electrification of a technology that results in reduction of the use of a fossil fuel and that provides a benefit to a utility, a ratepayer or the environment by improving the efficiency of the electricity grid or reducing consumer costs or emissions, including carbon emissions.

The law requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to conduct a study in consultation with stakeholders regarding the barriers to beneficial electrification of the transportation and heating sectors in the State and requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request for proposals from utilities and entities that are not utilities and review and select proposals to conduct a pilot program to support beneficial electrification of the transportation sector of the State.

**LD 1465 An Act To Diversify Maine's Energy Portfolio with Renewable Energy**

**Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule**

Sponsor(s)  
HUBBELL B

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill does the following.

1. It increases the portfolio requirement for new renewable resources from 10% to 50% by 2030 and makes several changes to resource eligibility for the requirement to encourage solar generation and highly productive hydropower resources and to provide minimum efficiency standards for biomass resources.
2. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to procure long-term contracts over a five-year period for 800 megawatts of grid-scale renewable resources, 90 megawatts of community-based renewable resources and 135 megawatts of renewable resources owned by commercial and industrial electricity customers. For each of these three types of renewable resources, the bill requires the commission to conduct annual solicitations for the long-term contracts and specifies requirements for the procurement process, resulting contracts and resource qualification.
3. It requires that the Public Utilities Commission rules governing net energy billing allow up to 200 customers to share ownership of an electricity generating facility for net energy billing, allow electricity generating facilities of up to one megawatt installed capacity to qualify for net energy billing and require the commission to review net

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

energy billing when the cumulative capacity of electricity generating facilities that participate in net energy billing in the service territory of a transmission and distribution utility reaches 10% of the utility's peak demand.

4. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop a plan for implementing a thermal renewable resource portfolio standard to encourage commercial and industrial pellet and wood heating systems, residential biomass systems and combined heat and power systems fueled by biomass. It requires the commission to submit a plan for the thermal renewable resource portfolio standard by January 1, 2020.

5. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop, implement and evaluate a distributed generation pilot program to encourage on-site renewable energy generation. It requires the commission to evaluate the pilot program after three years of operation and report its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by April 15, 2023.

**LD 1469      An Act To Amend the Charter of the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District      P & S 8**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KEIM L	OTP-AM	S-124

This bill updates and clarifies provisions of the charter of the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District regarding the determination of actual apportionable costs, the apportionment of annual costs and rate charges.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-124)**

This amendment strikes the bill but retains the provision from the bill that increases the amount of funds that the district may transfer to a surplus or capital account if a surplus exists at the end of a calendar year.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Private and Special Law 2019, chapter 8 amends the charter of the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District to increase the amount of funds that the district may transfer to a surplus or capital account if a surplus exists at the end of a calendar year.

**LD 1494      An Act To Reform Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard      PUBLIC 477**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VITELLI E PLUECKER B	OTP-AM ONTP	S-307

This bill increases the percentage of supply sources for retail electricity sales in the State that must be accounted for by new renewable capacity resources from 10% to 50% by 2030. It also makes several changes to resource eligibility to meet these requirements. The bill also creates a renewable portfolio standard for thermal energy resources. The bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission to procure long-term contracts for an amount of renewable capacity resources that is equal to 1/2 the amount of the portfolio requirements for these resources and requires the commission to conduct annual competitive solicitations for the long-term contracts.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-307)**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It adds state goals for consumption of electricity from renewable resources.