

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**

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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

Current law requires that, when a person files with the Public Utilities Commission a petition of approval for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a transmission line, that person must pay, in addition to the filing fee paid to the commission, an additional filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate equal to 1/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line. This bill increases the amount of the additional filing fee to 2/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line. It also allows the Office of the Public Advocate to recover expenses in the transmission line proceeding that exceed the amount of the original filing fee from the person.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-96)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 177 increases the amount of the filing fee that is required to be paid to the Office of the Public Advocate by a person who files with the Public Utilities Commission a petition of approval for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a transmission line from 1/100 of 1% to 2/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line. It also allows the Office of the Public Advocate to recover expenses in the transmission line proceeding that exceed the amount of the original filing fee from the person.

LD 1557 An Act To Adjust the Staffing and Resources of the Office of the Public Advocate PUBLIC 226

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE M	OTP-AM	S-125

This bill allows the Public Advocate to hire an additional employee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-125)

This amendment adds a provision to the bill to replace, in the Office of the Public Advocate, one Research Assistant position, salary range 30, with one Economic Analyst position, salary range 36, to align compensation with the assigned duties and qualifications of staff.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 226 allows the Public Advocate to hire an additional employee. It also replaces one Research Assistant position, salary range 30, with one Economic Analyst position, salary range 36, to align compensation with the assigned duties and qualifications of staff of the Office of the Public Advocate.

LD 1558 An Act To Change the Definition of "Gas Utility" in the Laws Governing Public Utilities ONTP

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

This bill includes propane dealers in the definition of "gas utility" in the laws governing public utilities.