

# 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*

**LD 1603      Resolve, To Coordinate a Plan To Expand Cellular Telephone Service**

**RESOLVE 64**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T BERRY S	OTP-AM	S-155

This bill requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop a plan in consultation with the ConnectME Authority to install wireless base stations at state-owned facilities to improve cellular telephone service in underserved areas of the State. It requires the department to direct the relevant state agencies to install and maintain wireless base stations as identified in the plan.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-155)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, in coordination with the ConnectME Authority, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the University of Maine System, Networkmaine, to develop a plan to leverage state assets to expand cellular telephone service to underserved areas of the State. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to submit a report on the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the report.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 64 requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, in coordination with the ConnectME Authority, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the University of Maine System, Networkmaine, to develop a plan to leverage state assets to expand cellular telephone service to underserved areas of the State. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to submit a report on the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the report.

**LD 1614      Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry**

**RESOLVE 83**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RILEY T WOODSOME D	OTP-AM	H-433

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-433)**

This amendment makes the following changes to the resolve.

1. It increases the membership of the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry from 13 to 14, adding the Public Advocate or the Public Advocate's designee as a member, and requires one of the public members appointed by the President of the Senate to be from the northern part of the State.
2. It removes the limitation that the members representing energy storage owners specifically represent battery

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

storage owners.

3. It amends the duties of the commission to include a review of economically efficient and effective implementation approaches to energy storage targets and consideration of bring-your-own-device programs and storm outage and response management programs for behind-the-meter energy storage to reduce peak reduction and increase resiliency.

4. It removes certain language regarding invited staff support from state agencies.

5. It directs the commission to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 83 establishes the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry. The commission is required to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 4, 2019.

**LD 1622      An Act To Promote the Use of Wood Pellet Central Heating Systems      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T FECTEAU R	ONTP	

This bill directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide a rebate from the trust's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund in an amount equal to 50% of the purchase price up to \$10,000 of a residential wood pellet central heating system and up to \$20,000 of a nonresidential wood pellet central heating system.

**LD 1634      An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy Fund and To Authorize a      CARRIED OVER**  
**General Fund Bond Issue To Capitalize the Fund**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ZEIGLER S		

This bill creates the Maine Clean Energy Fund within and with oversight from the Efficiency Maine Trust to support the development of renewable and clean energy technologies and infrastructure through providing financing support including loans, loan guarantees and other financial and risk mitigation products. The fund is administered by a nine member board of directors consisting of certain government officials and members of the public appointed by the Governor. This bill also provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$100,000,000 to be used to capitalize the Maine Clean Energy Fund.

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