

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES
AND TECHNOLOGY**

November 2020

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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

distribution utilities known as Central Maine Power Company and Emera Maine.

This bill, which had not yet been voted by the committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1741 *Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Examine Performance-based Rates for Electric Utilities* ONTP

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

This resolve was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This resolve requires the Public Utilities Commission to open a proceeding to examine the rate plans of each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in the State. The commission is directed to examine rate design, existing performance metrics and any incentives for efficient operation that are currently in place for each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility and to specifically consider performance measures including a utility's reliability, billing accuracy, level of renewable energy generation integration and customer satisfaction. Based on its review, the commission shall determine the appropriateness of any reasonable rate-adjustment mechanisms, including enhanced positive and negative financial incentives linked to performance.

LD 1748 *An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs* CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN H STROM S		

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill allows the Efficiency Maine Trust or a municipality to establish a commercial property assessed clean energy program to finance energy savings improvements on qualifying property.

This bill, which had been voted (OTP-A/ONTP) but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1853 *An Act To Prohibit Door-to-door Marketing of Retail Energy Supply* CARRIED OVER

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

This bill prohibits door-to-door sales practices directed at residential consumers by competitive electricity providers.

This bill, which had been voted (OTP-A) but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over in committee to

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 1877 An Act To Amend the Kittery Water District Charter

ONTP

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

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to make changes to the charter of the Kittery Water District.

LD 1880 An Act To Repeal and Replace the Canton Water District Charter

P & S 15

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PICKETTR HAMPERJ	OTP-AM	H-670

This bill repeals and replaces the charter of the Canton Water District to update and modernize the district's charter and to clarify that, going forward, the district is to be considered a standard district as that term is defined in the Standard Water District Enabling Act.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-670)

This amendment changes the threshold at which public notification of proposed debt and its purposes becomes necessary from \$30,000 to \$300,000.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2019, chapter 15 repeals and replaces the charter of the Canton Water District to update and modernize the district's charter and to clarify that, going forward, the district is to be considered a standard district as that term is defined in the Standard Water District Enabling Act. This law also changes the threshold at which public notification of proposed debt and its purposes becomes necessary from \$30,000 to \$300,000.

LD 1881 An Act Regarding Utility-related Fees

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S LIBBYN	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities matters on any utility-related fees and penalties that have not been adjusted in the previous five years and to submit legislation to adjust each utility-related fee or penalty based on the Consumer Price Index. The commission is also required to submit legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature to adjust all fees and penalties paid by public utilities based on the actuarially compounded Consumer Price Index for each fee or penalty since enactment.

The bill also requires the commission and the Public Advocate, beginning in 2021, to annually review their expenses relating to all consumer-owned public utilities and expenses relating to all investor-owned public utilities