

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE, CHAIR
SEN. DAVID R. MIRAMANT
SEN. DAVID WOODSOME*
SEN. DANA L. DOW*

REP. SETH A. BERRY, CHAIR
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. CHRISTINA RILEY
REP. CHRISTOPHER JAMES CAIAZZO
REP. VICTORIA W. DOUDERA
REP. NICOLE GROHOSKI
REP. CHRISTOPHER J. KESSLER
REP. JEFFERY P. HANLEY
REP. CHAD WAYNE GRIGNON
REP. STEVEN D. FOSTER

STAFF:

LUCIA NIXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

*Committee member for a portion of the session

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-685)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 592 specifies that liquefied propane gas distribution systems that have underground pipes are subject to the so-called dig safe law. The law also increases the administrative penalties for violations of the so-called dig safe law from \$500 to \$1,000 for a violation and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a subsequent violation occurring within 12 months of an earlier violation.

Public Law 2019, chapter 592 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 17, 2020.

LD 1895 An Act Regarding Positions at the Public Utilities Commission

CARRIED OVER

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

This bill reclassifies the Public Utilities Commission's director of emergency services communication to be consistent with other commission directors. The bill also adds four positions to the commission: a Utility Analyst to perform utility rate case revenue requirement analysis and other activities; a Utility Analyst to perform communications and customer outreach activities; a Senior Consumer Assistance Specialist to perform administrative work in the receipt, analysis and resolution of consumer complaints; and a Public Service Coordinator II to perform 9-1-1 standards compliance, contract management and other tasks related to the administration of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau.

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 1896 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Thermal Renewable Energy Credits

PUBLIC 576

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VITELLIE BERRY S	OTP-AM ONTP	S-384

This bill provides that retail electricity sales pursuant to a supply contract or standard-offer service arrangement executed by a competitive electricity provider that is in effect on September 19, 2019, are exempt from the requirement for the purchase of thermal renewable energy credits until the end date of the existing term of the supply contract or standard-offer service arrangement. It also allows the Public Utilities Commission to set separate alternative compliance payment rates for Class I resources, Class IA resources and thermal renewable energy credits under the laws governing renewable resources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment removes the provision of the bill regarding separate alternative compliance payment rates for different resource classes and thermal renewable energy credits. It also removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause, which were related to the provision removed from the bill.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 576 provides that retail electricity sales pursuant to a supply contract or standard-offer service arrangement executed by a competitive electricity provider that is in effect on September 19, 2019, are exempt from the requirement for the purchase of thermal renewable energy credits until the end date of the existing term of the supply contract or standard-offer service arrangement.

LD 1913 An Act To Prohibit Certain Wheeling Charges for the Transmission of Electricity ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J	ONTP	

This bill prohibits an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility located in an area administered by the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator from charging a person generating or selling electricity for the transmission, or wheeling, of that electricity to or from Canada over the utility's transmission system.

LD 1917 An Act To Eliminate Direct Retail Competition for the Supply of Electricity to Residential Consumers Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME D	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill eliminates retail-level competition for residential electricity customers and amends the competitive process for selecting standard-offer service providers for residential and small commercial electricity customers. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to designate or hire an employee to assist the commission in administering standard-offer service.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-406)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters regarding the competition in the retail market for the supply of electricity to residential customers. The amendment authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report. This amendment was not adopted.

LD 2013 An Act To Extend Arrearage Management Program Requirements for Transmission and Distribution Utilities for One Year PUBLIC 608

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RILEY T	OTP	

This bill delays by one year, from September 30, 2021, to September 30, 2022, the repeal of the requirement that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility implement an arrearage management program to assist low-income residential customers with their electricity bills and the requirement that the Efficiency Maine Trust work with utilities that participate in an arrearage management program.