

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

At adjournment, this amendment had been adopted by the Senate and had not been taken up by the House. This bill was carried over in the House to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

LD 2031 An Act To Require a Cable System Operator To Provide a Pro Rata Credit When Service Is Cancelled by a Subscriber

PUBLIC 657

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY S LAWRENCE M	OTP-AM ONTP	H-717

This bill requires a cable system operator to grant a subscriber a pro rata credit or rebate if that subscriber requests service disconnection during the first two weeks of a monthly billing period.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-717)

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

1. It adds a provision to require a cable system operator to discontinue billing a subscriber within two working days after a request to cancel service, instead of within 10 working days of the request, which is current law.
2. It amends the provision of the bill regarding the pro rata credit or rebate for cancellation of service to require the credit or rebate if a subscriber requests cancellation three or more working days before the end of the monthly billing period.
3. It clarifies the provision in the bill regarding the notice on subscriber bills regarding the right to a pro rata credit or rebate.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 657 shortens the time period within which a cable system must discontinue billing a subscriber from within 10 working days of a request to cancel service to within two working days of a request to cancel service. The law also requires a cable system operator to grant a pro rata credit or rebate for cancellation of service if a subscriber requests cancellation three or more working days before the end of the monthly billing period.

LD 2032 An Act To Reduce Financial Burdens on Small Water Utilities

**PUBLIC 586
EMERGENCY**

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

Under current law, a qualified small water utility with gross annual revenues of \$50,000 or less is required to have an independent audit of internal accounts of that water utility performed by a certified public accountant for any year the water utility seeks a rate increase. This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to waive that independent audit requirement if the water utility shows good cause as to why the requirement should be waived.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 586 allows the Public Utilities Commission to waive the requirement that a qualified small water utility with gross annual revenues of \$50,000 or less have an independent audit of internal accounts of

