

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

2. The promotion of the purchase of high-efficiency heat pump systems to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 115,000 households in the State wholly heated by heat pumps and an additional 130,000 households in the State partially heated by heat pumps; and
3. The promotion of the purchase of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 120,000 such vehicles registered in the State.

It broadens the existing authorization for the trust to establish training programs for installers of solar energy equipment to include energy equipment generally. It also authorizes the trust to offer training programs to code enforcement officers, inspectors or other professionals involved in designing, marketing, regulating or educating about energy equipment and to offer training programs to contractors or other professionals involved in designing, installing or constructing energy efficiency, weatherization or other building performance measures for homes and businesses.

LD 487 An Act Regarding Certain Employees of and To Provide for the Payment of Certain Filing Fees to the Public Advocate

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 195 changes the title of the Business Services Manager position to Senior Assistant to the Public Advocate to clarify that a person in the position may perform duties aside from business-related duties. It requires the payment of a filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate by an applicant for approval of a reorganization by the Public Utilities Commission, not to exceed 3/100 of 1% of the total transaction value of the reorganization, to be expended by the Public Advocate in representing the interests of consumers in the reorganization proceeding or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. It requires that, in the case of a petition for approval by the Public Utilities Commission of the erection of a transmission line capable of operating at 69 kilovolts or more, the person filing the petition must pay to the Office of the Public Advocate a filing fee equal to 3/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect that transmission line, to be expended by the Public Advocate in representing the interests of consumers in the petition proceeding or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding.

LD 500 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 16 authorizes final adoption by the Public Utilities Commission of portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a provisionally adopted

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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major substantive rule of the commission, only if the rule is amended prior to final adoption to clarify that a damage prevention incident may be reported by an excavator to the Public Utilities Commission via e-mail.

Resolve 2021, chapter 16 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 25, 2021.

LD 507 An Act To Improve Consumer Protections for Community Solar Projects

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 107 clarifies the enforcement of provisions governing project sponsors in order to protect a customer who participates in or is solicited to participate in community solar projects through a net energy billing arrangement based upon a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A from fraud and other unfair and deceptive business practices. It specifies the provisions that are the responsibility of the Public Utilities Commission to enforce and requires that the commission report for any suspected violations of other specified provisions to the Attorney General. It also specifies that any violation of the provisions governing project sponsors is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. It allows the commission to adopt consumer protection provisions in its net energy billing rules as routine technical rules on a one-time basis. Lastly, it provides allocations for additional positions at the commission in order to implement these protections.

LD 508 An Act To Improve Regulation of Door-to-door Marketing of Retail Energy Supply

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 108 establishes additional requirements for and places certain limitations and penalties on competitive electricity providers that use third-party sales agents. It defines “3rd-party sales agent” and “door-to-door sales.” It requires third-party sales agents to register with the Public Utilities Commission and to comply with federal and state laws and rules regarding door-to-door sales. The law prohibits a third-party sales agent, on behalf of a competitive electricity provider, from entering into an agreement to provide service to a residential consumer when that service is solicited using door-to-door sales practices without providing the residential consumer a standard disclosure form that meets requirements prescribed by the commission by rule. The bill prohibits a competitive electricity provider or a third-party sales agent from representing itself as an alternative to or affiliated in any way with a transmission and distribution utility. It allows the consumer to rescind the consumer's selection of a competitive electricity provider orally or in writing within five days of receipt of the first bill or invoice, but requires the consumer to pay that first bill or invoice in full.