

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

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.