

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> 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

### **LD 511 An Act Regarding Services Designed to Reduce the Number of So-called Robocalls and Automatically Dialed Telephone Calls**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 109 clarifies that a telephone utility must inform each subscriber as to the nature and cost of any service offered that is designed to reduce the number of calls received by a subscriber that are made using an automated telephone calling device or an artificial or prerecorded voice and describe how the subscriber may elect to enroll in or take advantage of the service.

### **LD 528 An Act To Advance Energy Storage in Maine**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 298:

1. Establishes a state goal for energy storage system development of 300 megawatts of installed capacity by December 31, 2025, and 400 megawatts of installed capacity by December 31, 2030, and requires the Governor's Energy Office, every two years beginning in 2031, to set the state goal for energy storage system development and report that goal to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters;
2. Amends the laws governing the Efficiency Maine Trust to ensure that the trust's authority explicitly and affirmatively includes energy storage by adding direct references to energy storage in relevant sections of statute; directs the trust to explore and evaluate options to expand existing opportunities and develop new opportunities to support energy storage measures that cost-effectively reduce or shift demand or balance; directs the trust to explore alternative methods to demonstrate cost-effectiveness for energy storage projects or programs; requires, beginning January 1, 2022, the trust to conduct a pilot program to provide energy storage systems to critical care facilities and limits the pilot program to 15 megawatts of energy storage capacity; and requires the trust, in its annual report, to specify its activities undertaken under the energy storage pilot program;
3. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to investigate opportunities to modernize transmission and distribution utility rate designs through time-of-use or other time-differentiated rates; develop and implement a pilot program to test and evaluate time-of-use rates in conjunction with energy storage; and develop and implement a schedule for regular review and update of rate designs and ensure that the review includes consideration of time-differentiated rates;
4. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate the feasibility and possible benefits of a power-to-fuel pilot program that would result in the development of power-to-fuel projects utilizing renewable energy, to estimate ratepayer impacts of a pilot program, provide a comparison of how those ratepayer impacts compare to other types of energy storage

#### ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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

technologies and to review what measures other states have taken to facilitate the development of energy storage and whether those measure were successful at promoting energy storage, minimizing ratepayer impacts and promoting a diversification of energy storage technologies. It requires the commission submit a report on its evaluation to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2022 and allows the committee to report out a bill based on the report; and

5. Requires the Governor's Energy Office to conduct an energy storage market assessment study and submit a report on that study by March 1, 2022.

### **LD 597 An Act To Establish the Thermal Energy Investment Program**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 199 establishes the Thermal Energy Investment Fund and creates the Thermal Energy Investment Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust. The law specifies that funds collected from alternative compliance payments made by competitive electricity providers to satisfy the portfolio requirements for thermal renewable energy credits must be used to fund the Thermal Energy Investment Fund. It requires the trust to use funds from the fund, if there are any, to provide incentives and low-interest or no-interest loans for new thermal energy-derived projects. It requires that the trust consult with the Finance Authority of Maine, when appropriate, in the development of any Thermal Energy Investment Program incentives and the distribution of money from the Thermal Energy Investment Fund. It prohibits the use of funds for incentives or loans for the refurbishment or maintenance of existing facilities.

### **LD 815 An Act To Support School Decarbonization**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 152 changes the school energy savings program, which was developed and administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, to a school decarbonization program. It requires the trust to provide technical and financial support to help kindergarten to grade 12 schools become carbon neutral. It also repeals the school solar energy program administered by the trust.

### **LD 936 An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurements of Distributed Generation**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 390 specifies the requirements that must be met for a distributed generation resource with a nameplate capacity of at least two megawatts and no more than five megawatts to be able to participate in net energy billing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title