

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**

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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

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35-A, sections 3209-A and 3209-B. It also specifies a goal for the development of commercially operational distributed generation resources of 750 total megawatts. It prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from procuring distributed generation under Title 35-A, chapter 34-C. It provides funding for an additional position at the commission.

The law also requires the Governor's Energy Office in coordination with the commission to convene a stakeholder group to consider various distributed generation project programs to be implemented between 2024 and 2028 and the need for improved grid planning. It defines, for the purposes of this stakeholder process, "distributed generation project" as a renewable energy project with a nameplate capacity of no more than five megawatts that has identified residential, commercial and institutional customers, including but not limited to, net energy billing arrangement projects. It specifies those stakeholders that must be included, requires both an interim report and final report and specifies what must be examined for each report. It allows the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the interim report and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the final report.

LD 1008 An Act To Require Joint Use Entities To Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 154 requires a joint use entity, which includes a public utility, voice service provider, dark fiber provider, wholesale or retail competitive local exchange carrier, cable television system, unlit fiber provider, telecommunications service provider or information service provider, to designate a permanent liaison with each county emergency management agency in the State in counties in which the joint use entity has facilities in order to assist in the coordination of efforts during a disaster or civil emergency.

It also provides that a joint use entity is responsible for ensuring that such a designated permanent liaison responds immediately to any contact or request for assistance during a disaster or civil emergency from the county emergency management agency to which the liaison is designated. It further provides that a county emergency management agency that receives a communication from a joint use entity designating a permanent liaison must communicate to that joint use entity the contact information for the employee or employees of the county emergency management agency responsible for coordinating the actions of the county emergency management agency during a disaster or civil emergency.