

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

LD 1025 An Act To Support Arrearage Management Programs through Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits Derived from Net Energy Billing Arrangements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 370 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt routine technical rules requiring that, no earlier than April 1, 2022, each transmission and distribution utility with a net energy billing arrangement account for and, on or before January 1st of each year, apply all unused kilowatt-hour credits that were accumulated and expired in the prior calendar year for the benefit of participants in the utility's arrearage management program implemented pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2-A.

LD 1053 An Act To Allow Microgrids That Are in the Public Interest

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 236 directs the Public Utilities Commission to approve a petition to construct and operate a new microgrid if the commission finds the proposal to be in the public interest and the new microgrid meets other specified requirements. It requires that any new distributed energy sources constructed after the effective date of this law for a new microgrid must be a renewable capacity resource or a renewable resource. It provides the commission with the ability to impose such terms, conditions or requirements as, in its judgment, it considers necessary in approving a new microgrid and also gives the commission oversight to ensure reliability and security of the electrical grid and consumer protections for new microgrid consumers. It specifies that a new microgrid does not become a public utility solely as a result of its furnishing electrical service to participating consumers. It also directs the commission to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters by January 7, 2023.

The law requires that, beginning in 2025, the commission must submit information regarding microgrids in its annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities.

LD 1100 An Act To Support the Continued Access to Solar Energy and Battery Storage by Maine Homes and Businesses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 264 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules related to the interconnection of renewable capacity resources using solar power to investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in a manner that supports the goals in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3474. It also directs the commission to contract with an expert to

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

evaluate near-term reforms to the State's interconnection standards, practices and procedures related to renewable capacity resources using solar power.

LD 1306 Resolve, To Facilitate the Inclusion of Crisis Response Services in Emergency Services Offered through the E-9-1-1 System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 29 directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communications Bureau to research and review protocols and procedures necessary to ensure the delivery of crisis response services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and to submit a report on or before February 1, 2022 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology outlining necessary protocols and procedures and including any recommendations needed to implement those protocols and procedures. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out related legislation to the 130th Legislature. It also provides a one-time allocation for consulting services.

LD 1328 An Act To Protect Maine Electricity Customers from Threats of Disconnection in the Wintertime

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 347 prohibits the use by a transmission and distribution utility of a notice or communication to a residential customer in the winter months that threatens disconnection on a specified date or within a specified time period unless the utility already has permission for the disconnection from the consumer assistance and safety division within the Public Utilities Commission. It also requires that any notice that in any way mentions disconnection during the winter months also state prominently that disconnection cannot take place without the advance permission of the consumer assistance and safety division and that the customer will be notified and heard. It also specifies that the notice permitted to be sent to a residential customer from a transmission and distribution utility during the disconnection prohibition period is deemed a notice of disconnection for the purpose of establishing eligibility for certain emergency assistance programs. A violation of these requirements subjects the utility to a penalty of up to \$2,500 per violation payable to the affected customer, in addition to any other remedies to which the customer may be legally entitled.