

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2022

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regulatory or utility planning processes and convening stakeholders to examine related issues. The office must report on its activities, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters by February 1, 2023.

LD 1107 Resolve, Directing the Maine Connectivity Authority To Take Further Actions To Bring High-speed Broadband to Unserved Areas

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 161 directs the Maine Connectivity Authority to seek to encourage and support regional partnerships among appropriate entities to identify and implement strategies to bring high-speed broadband to unserved areas of the State. By January 15, 2023, the authority must report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters any federally approved plans for funding these strategies, including through the United States Department of the Treasury's Capital Projects Fund or the United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

LD 1202 An Act To Establish a Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 604 establishes the combined heat and power program, administered by the Public Utilities Commission, to encourage the sustainable development of combined heat and power projects that use wood fuel in the State. The law establishes the following with respect to the program:

1. It limits the program to 20 megawatts of net generating capacity across all projects, and the net generating capacity of each individual project may not be less than three megawatts or more than 10 megawatts;
2. It permits the commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into long-term contracts with program participants located within the service territory of each utility for energy, capacity resources or renewable energy credits;
3. It allows consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities, at their own option, enter into long term contracts for energy, capacity resources or renewable energy credits;
4. It limits long-term contracts entered into under the combined heat and power program to a contract term not greater than 20 years for a contract price may not exceed 10 cents per

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kilowatt-hour;

5. Requires the commission to ensure that mechanisms are established to protect electricity ratepayers over the contract term;
6. Requires the commission to report biennially to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the combined heat and power program and the overall development of combined heat and power program projects in the State;
7. Authorizes the State to give preference to electricity generated by combined heat and power projects when purchasing electricity for the State; and
8. Authorizes the commission to incorporate energy generated by combined heat and power projects into the supply of standard-offer service.

LD 1554 An Act To Provide Climate Change Transition Assistance for Maine's Energy-intensive Businesses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 716 repeals provisions governing payments from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, to the Public Utilities Commission during fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The law directs the trust to establish an industrial climate transition initiative to develop and support climate change mitigation strategies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at industrial facilities in the State. It provides a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund to fund the establishment and activities of the trust's industrial climate transition initiative.

LD 1579 An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles and Zero-emission Vehicles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 693 establishes goals and timetables for State, county and municipal vehicle purchases and leases to transition to plug in hybrid electric vehicles or zero-emission vehicles. The law establishes the following goals:

1. For the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management Division and the Department of Public Safety, combined, 50% of annual light-duty motor vehicle acquisitions will be plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and