

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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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

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zero-emission vehicles by 2025 and 100% by 2030;

2. For counties and municipalities, 100% of annual light-duty motor vehicle acquisitions will be plug-in hybrid electric vehicles or zero-emission vehicles by 2035; and
3. For school bus acquisitions approved by the Commissioner of Education, at least 75% of annual purchases, contracts and leases will be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

The law requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to convene an interagency working group to develop a plan to reach the goal applicable to school bus acquisitions and to review various issues related to zero-emission school bus acquisitions including technology benefits and challenges, financing options, charging infrastructure planning, and school administrative unit education and training needs. The working group must submit its plan and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters. The committee may submit a bill concerning the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

The law also updates the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan by increasing the goal for the number of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles registered in Maine by 2030 from 120,000 to 220,000.

LD 1760 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District To Set the Terms of Its Trustees at 3 Years

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 13 amends the charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District to establish a three-year term length for elected trustees.

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 13 has a retroactive effective date of November 5, 2019.

LD 1814 An Act To Transfer the St. Francis Water District to the Town of St. Francis and To Repeal the St. Francis Water District Charter

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 16 establishes provisions governing the dissolution of the St. Francis Water District and the assumption of the district's property, contracts and liabilities by the Town of St. Francis. It requires a referendum vote by the Town of St. Francis to be held no later than December 31, 2022 and, upon acceptance by the voters, the provisions governing the assumption of the district's property, contracts and liabilities become effective. The provision repealing the St. Francis Water District charter is effective 90 days after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.