

# 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

**STAFF:**

DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

### **LD 1484 An Act To Establish the Maine Connectivity Authority**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 364 enacts the Connectivity Infrastructure Act, which, among other things, sets forth state connectivity goals and establishes the Maine Connectivity Authority to further those goals through the development and financing of connectivity projects and through other activities.

This law also directs the Maine Connectivity Authority, in consultation with the ConnectMaine Authority, to review the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes pertaining to each entity and develop recommendations for any necessary changes to those provisions to facilitate the oversight of the ConnectMaine Authority by the Maine Connectivity Authority and any other recommendations. The Maine Connectivity Authority is directed to submit such recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology on or before January 15, 2022. After reviewing the recommendations, the joint standing committee may report out related legislation to the 130th Legislature.

Public Law 2021, chapter 364 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 24, 2021.

### **LD 1542 An Act To Repeal and Replace the Kittery Water District Charter**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 2 repeals and replaces the Kittery Water District charter, changing the boundaries of the district and making it a standard water district pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 64.

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 8, 2021.

### **LD 1619 An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Power Development in Territorial Waters and Submerged Lands of the State**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 407 prohibits the development of offshore wind power projects in the state-owned submerged lands or territorial waters and includes several exceptions to this prohibition. It specifies that the licensing, permitting or approval by a state agency or municipality or other political subdivision of the State of the siting, construction or operation of or the issuance of a lease or the grant of an easement or other real property interest for utility cables or transmission lines that are intended to support the generation of wind energy located seaward of territorial waters is prohibited unless, by March 1, 2023, the Governor's Energy Office has developed a

#### ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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strategic plan to inform the development of offshore wind power projects, has reviewed the ability of state laws and rules to protect Maine's coastal resources from the development of offshore wind energy generation located seaward of the territorial waters and, with input of the advisory board of the Offshore Wind Research Consortium established by this law, has identified the preliminary research questions the consortium seeks to answer regarding the development of offshore wind power projects. It requires the Governor's Energy Office to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters notifying the committee of the completion of these requirements.

This law establishes the Offshore Wind Research Consortium, an initiative of the Governor's Energy Office, to coordinate, support and arrange for the conduct of research on offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. It requires the Governor's Energy Office, in consultation with independent scientific experts, to establish an advisory board to oversee the development and execution of a research strategy to better understand the local and regional impacts of floating offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. It specifies the minimum membership that is required on the board and the duties and authority of the board.

It establishes the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund as a nonlapsing fund to fund the consortium and the work of the advisory board. It specifies the fund is to be administered by the Governor's Energy Office and the Department of Marine Resources.

Lastly, this law requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection each to submit by February 1, 2022 legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind power projects.

Public Law 2021, chapter 407 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 6, 2021.

### **LD 1625 An Act To Increase the Number of Lincolnville Sewer District Trustees from 3 to 5**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 9 increases the number of trustees of the Lincolnville Sewer District from three to five. Two of the new members are alternates who may vote only if a quorum has not yet been reached. It clarifies that two members of the board of trustees of the Lincolnville Sewer District constitutes a quorum.