

# 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

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

### **LD 1659 An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 358 creates the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to support the development of clean energy and sustainability projects and infrastructure through providing financing support, including loans, loan guarantees and other financial and risk mitigation products. The accelerator is administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust.

### **LD 1666 Resolve, To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Issue a Request for Information on a Statewide, Multi-use Online Energy Data Platform**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 63 requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request for information to evaluate the feasibility of the commission establishing and operating a statewide, multiple-use online energy data platform that will provide natural gas and electric utility customers with safe, secure access to information about their usage and will allow for the aggregation of and removal of personally identifiable information from community-level energy data. It requires the commission to submit a report, by January 31, 2022, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes the results of the evaluation. Lastly, it allows the committee to report out a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

### **LD 1682 An Act To Require Consideration of Climate Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission and To Incorporate Equity Considerations in Decision Making by State Agencies**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 279 adds to the purposes of the Public Utilities Commission the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It requires the commission, in its execution of its duties, powers and regulatory functions to aid in the facilitation of the achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 576-A while ensuring system reliability and resource adequacy.

It requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, in consultation with other state agencies and offices, to develop methods to incorporate equity considerations in decision making at the Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies, and to develop definitions for “environmental justice,” “environmental justice populations,” “frontline communities” and any other terms determined to be necessary to capture equity considerations in decision making at the department, the commission and other state agencies. It requires the office to allow for input from the public and stakeholders. It requires the office to submit a report that includes any recommendations regarding definitions and equity

#### ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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

considerations, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 15, 2022. It allows each committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

### **LD 1710 An Act To Require Prompt and Effective Use of the Renewable Energy Resources of Northern Maine**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 380 establishes the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program, administered by the Public Utilities Commission, to remove obstacles to the use of and development of renewable energy resources in Aroostook County and any other area of the State in which the retail market is administered by the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator.

It requires the commission to issue a request for proposals for the development and construction of the 345-kilovolt double circuit generation connection line, or at the commission's discretion a transmission line or lines capable of connecting renewable resources located in northern Maine with the electric grid operated by ISO-New England. It also requires the commission to issue a request for proposals for the development and construction of renewable energy generation projects in northern Maine to be connected to and to transmit generated electricity using the transmission line or lines constructed as a result of the request for proposals for transmission required by this law.

It provides the commission with discretion in its administration of the programs and specifies that if at the close of the competitive bidding process the commission determines that no proposal meets the requirements or that approval of a contract or contracts is not in the public interest, the commission may reject all proposals and open a new competitive bidding process.

In implementing and administering the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program, the commission is directed to make every effort to facilitate the construction and development of the line or lines including participating in any regional or federal proceeding relating to the line or lines and participating in proceedings involving the inclusion or integration of the line or lines and any associated upgrades by the ISO-New England system or the New England Power Pool into the ISO-New England system's transmission plan, bulk power system and pool transmission facilities.