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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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.

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 16 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 29, 2022.

LD 1829 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 15 amends the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District. It updates statutory cross references within the charter and revises the charter for consistency with the Standard Sewer District Enabling Act. It also increases the district's debt limit and allows the district to furnish sewerage services to parts of adjoining municipalities served by a failing or failed subsurface wastewater disposal system or septic system.

LD 1847 An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting Service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 586 requires a public utility, before it terminates or disconnects a public safety facility's utility service for nonpayment of public utility rates, fees or charges, to provide at least 60 days' advance written notice to the facility of its intent to terminate or disconnect utility service and to obtain written authorization from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Safety to terminate or disconnect the utility service. It requires the commission to assess administrative penalties against public utilities that violate the law's requirements and establishes penalty amounts applicable only to these violations. It also requires the commission to adopt or amend rules to ensure that process or system changes undertaken by a public utility to comply with the law's requirements are cost effective, result in operation and maintenance costs that are prudent and reasonable and do not involve capital investment.

Public Law 2021, chapter 586 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2022.

LD 1894 An Act To Support Municipal Broadband Infrastructure through Incentives and Competition

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 616 establishes a registration process administered by the Public Utilities Commission for consumer-owned public utilities seeking to provide broadband or other Internet access services to the public. Prior to exercising any authority it may have pursuant to other law, a consumer-owned public utility must register with the commission and identify a contact person knowledgeable about the proposed or planned broadband and Internet access systems activities.