

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> 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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**LD 1949 An Act To Amend the Caribou Utilities District Charter To Include Broadband Services**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 18 amends the charter of the Caribou Utilities District to permit the district to provide broadband services to residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations and government entities within the district. It expands the district's powers to include those related to the provision of broadband services. It also establishes a process for municipalities other than Caribou to apply for membership to receive broadband services through the district.

**LD 1959 An Act Regarding Utility Accountability and Grid Planning for Maine's Clean Energy Future**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 702:

1. Directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing the evaluation of the utility service provided by transmission and distribution utilities with over 50,000 customers which must include metrics pertaining to utility operations and activities relating to: service quality, customer service, field services, and distributed energy resources interconnection;
2. Requires the commission to set reporting requirements for each metric, designate service standards based on thresholds of performance, and evaluate data provided by the utilities to determine if each utility has met the standards;
3. Requires the commission to impose administrative penalties for poor performance unless the utility demonstrates good cause for its failure to meet the standard;
4. Requires certain transmission and distribution utilities to submit a report to the commission that includes a comparison of the utility's actual with estimated costs used in its most recent rate case to set rates. If the commission finds a difference of more than 10% between the actual and estimated costs, the commission may require an audit of the utility or disallow cost recovery in the utility's future rate cases;
5. Directs the commission to initiate a proceeding to conduct a comparison of each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility's expenditures with comparable investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the United States. The results of that comparison may be used in a utility's future rate cases;
6. Establishes a process for divestiture of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that fails to meet the required service standards or is unable to fulfill its statutory duties due to financial impairment;