

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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**

October 2023

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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor’s request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X..... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor’s veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 69 Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Consider Methods to Educate Customers About Electricity Supply

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 12 requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request to competitive electricity providers and standard-offer service providers for information regarding the feasibility of providing the cost in cents per kilowatt-hour to transmission and distribution utilities for each power source used by the provider to serve its load. It also directs the commission to consider methods it could undertake to better educate electric consumers on their electric energy supply and the reasons for fluctuations in the price for that supply. By February 10, 2024, the commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes the information it receives from competitive electricity providers and standard-offer service providers and the consumer education methods it considered. The committee may report out a bill to the 131st Legislature in 2024.

LD 177 An Act to Amend the Authority of the Public Utilities Commission Regarding Access to Information in Proceedings Involving Special Rate Contracts

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 64 allows the Public Utilities Commission to deny or limit access to information by an attorney in a proceeding involving one or more special contracts if the information is customarily regarded as confidential business information, the information relates to the reasons or justification for the parties' entering into the special contract and the party represented by the attorney is not a party to the special contract with the utility. The commission may deny or limit access to information by any attorney in a proceeding involving one or more special contracts after providing the attorney with an opportunity to be heard and upon finding that the potential for harm from disclosure of the information outweighs the need for disclosure.

LD 187 An Act to Eliminate the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund and to Provide Needs-based Low-income Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 306 repeals the law establishing the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund. It requires alternative compliance payments made by competitive electricity providers to the Public Utilities Commission, instead of being deposited into the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund, to be used by the commission to provide financial assistance for low-income households.