

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.

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way that maximizes the value of the portfolio of the resources to all ratepayers. The commission must provide a copy of the expert's report and a description of any actions the commission recommends with respect to the findings in the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by September 1, 2024.

5. It requires the commission to establish an interconnection working group to collaborate to prevent and resolve disputes relating to the implementation of the State's small generator interconnection procedures for Level 1 and Level 2 facilities. The working group must meet monthly for its first year and at least quarterly thereafter until the working group submits its final report. The working group's final report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by December 6, 2025.

LD 395 An Act to Expand Funding Sources Within the Public Utilities Commission for Intervenor and Participant Funding

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 143 amends the law governing intervenor funding in the following ways.

1. It expands the law's applicability to include participants in nonadjudicatory proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission.
2. It includes administrative penalties collected by the commission in the allowable sources of funding for intervenor or participant participation in commission proceedings.
3. It limits funding for an intervenor or participant in a commission proceeding involving a water utility to only administrative penalties deposited in the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund.

LD 396 An Act to Preserve the 207 Area Code and Impede So-called Robocalling

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 144 establishes various requirements related to voice network service providers that acquire and place into service numbering resources for the State's numbering plan area from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator or its successor.

1. It requires voice network service providers to pay into the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund.
2. It provides the Public Utilities Commission with the authority to investigate voice network service providers for compliance with the requirements to contribute to the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund.

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3. It requires the commission, by January 12, 2024, to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes information on compliance with the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund requirements, an update on the commission's efforts to preserve the 207 area code and an analysis of whether additional efforts are needed to ensure numbering resources are used efficiently.

The law also creates a registration process for a provider of interconnected voice over Internet protocol service obtaining numbering resources in the State. It allows the commission to adopt routine technical rules relating to the registration process.

LD 399 An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources and Require Money Collected from Alternative Compliance Payments to Be Used for Financial Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 361 extends the repeal date to 2027 for the law that adds a 300% multiplier to the output of licensed power generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling for the purposes of meeting portfolio requirements for Class II resources. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to establish by rule an alternative compliance payment rate for Class II resources of not greater than \$10. Funds received by the commission for alternative compliance payments must be used to provide financial assistance for low-income households in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2.

LD 414 An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 145 requires a public utility seeking a change in rates, tolls and charges that increases the annual operating revenues of the utility by more than 1% to send a notice of the increase to its customers. The Public Utilities Commission must prepare the notice in consultation with the utility. If the utility seeks a rate increase greater than what was stated in the notice after the notice was sent, the utility must notify the commission. If the utility demonstrates good cause, the commission may allow the utility to seek the increase greater than what was stated in the notice subject to reasonable conditions established by the commission, which may include requiring the utility to send a new notice to its customers describing the revised proposed increase.