

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.

LD 496 An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 215 prohibits a person from constructing, causing to be constructed, or operating a battery storage system development with a capacity of two megawatts or more without first obtaining approval of a decommissioning plan from an environmental permitting entity. It establishes the requirements for a decommissioning plan, including the removal of the battery storage system development components, recycling of the waste components that are recyclable and regrading and revegetation of all earth disturbed during construction and decommissioning. The plan must include demonstration of current and future financial capacity to fully fund decommissioning under the plan.

The law clarifies the existing solar energy development decommissioning law by providing that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission are authorized, but not required, to adopt rules to implement the solar decommissioning requirements. It also adds language to clarify the applicability of the solar energy development decommissioning requirements.

LD 509 An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Direct Expiring Net Energy Billing Credits to Provide Low-income Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 230 directs the Public Utilities Commission to require transmission and distribution utilities with net energy billing arrangements to remit the value of unused and expired net energy billing credits to the commission to be used for the benefit of individuals receiving low income assistance.

LD 519 Resolve, to Evaluate a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 32 requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to assess the feasibility of establishing a vehicle-to-grid pilot project operated at the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District demonstrating the use of electric school buses to store energy from the electric grid during times of low demand and discharge the stored energy to the grid during times of high demand. The trust is required to submit an assessment of the pilot project to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, including a recommendation as to whether or not a pilot project would be feasible and, if the trust recommends implementing a pilot project, a proposed project design and budget.