

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,
UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

June 2024

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STATE OF MAINE

131ST LEGISLATURE
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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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. 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 589 An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 553 does the following.

1. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review of available grid-enhancing technology that may be implemented by large investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report describing the grid-enhancing technology identified in the review. The report may be used by the commission in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding.
2. It defines “beneficial load” for the purposes of the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act.
3. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, as a part of its development of a three-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy, to consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load. The trust must also integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the Governor's Energy Office as appropriate.
4. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide, by February 1, 2025, a written update on its beneficial electrification planning as well as any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

LD 1606 Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 150 directs the Department of Education’s office of innovation to conduct a study and develop guidance, in coordination with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor’s Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust, to assist public elementary and secondary schools in the State with achieving energy efficiency and maximizing the use of clean energy. The guidance must address how the programs and contracting options reviewed as a part of the study may be effectively accessed and used by public elementary and secondary schools in the State and incorporate the best practices and standards. No later than January 31, 2025, the Department of Education’s office of innovation must provide a report of its activities, as well as guidance for public elementary and secondary schools in the State for achieving energy efficiency, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters and education matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.