

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE, CHAIR
SEN. NICOLE GROHOSKI
SEN. MATTHEW HARRINGTON

REP. STANLEY PAIGE ZEIGLER, JR., CHAIR
REP. CHRISTOPHER J. KESSLER
REP. VALLI D. GEIGER
REP. JAMES A. BOYLE
REP. SOPHIA B. WARREN
REP. WALTER GERARD RUNTE, JR.
REP. STEVEN D. FOSTER
REP. MARK MICHAEL BABIN
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY
REP. REAGAN L. PAUL

STAFF:

LINDSAY J. LAXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



**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 542 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Investigate Time-of-use Rates

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 79 directs the Public Utilities Commission to investigate the feasibility of requiring standard-offer service to include a time-of-use rate option, including whether the commission recommends the use of a pilot program to assess this option and requiring all investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to offer a time-of-use rate for the delivery of electricity for all customer classes that would complement a time-of-use supply rate. The commission is required to submit a report, by January 15, 2024, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes a summary of the commission's investigation along with any findings and recommendations related to the report. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 640 An Act to Update the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 3 amends the charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to reflect position changes, remove obsolete language, clarify language regarding board members, update a statutory reference and make other changes to reflect the current operations of the authority.

LD 698 An Act to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Renewably Sourced Gas

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 222 requires the Public Utilities Commission to monitor proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and intervene and participate in those proceedings related to interstate natural gas transmission capacity in New England and the Northeast that could affect natural gas prices in the State if the commission believes that intervention and participation will best represent the interests of the State's electric and gas ratepayers. If the commission has intervened and participated in a proceeding, the commission must by December 31st of that year, submit a report summarizing its participation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters.

The law defines "renewably sourced gas" and provides that a gas utility may petition the commission to utilize renewably sourced gas. The commission may authorize the use of such gas upon a finding that the utility's proposed use is safe and reliable, that its use can be provided to customers at a just and reasonable rate and that it may reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set forth in statute.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

The law repeals the section of law that prohibits the commission from executing a contract for physical energy storage after June 1, 2017 and a contract for energy cost reduction after December 31, 2020. It requires the commission to issue a request for information after consultation with the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust regarding reasonable opportunities for the commission to explore and consider engaging in the execution of an energy cost reduction contract or a physical energy storage contract. The commission's request for information must also seek identification of existing and near-term replacement energy sources for natural gas in commercial and industrial uses, including when the replacement energy sources are expected to be available, the cost of those replacement energy sources and the steps needed to develop a cost-effective and reliable supply of such replacement energy sources. The commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024 that includes a summary of the responses the commission received from its request for information, any actions taken by the commission as a result of the information received and any recommendations.

LD 923 An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 121 requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually publish on its publicly accessible website current residential transmission and distribution utility rates and the standard-offer supply rates.

The law also requires the commission to determine the method necessary to convey to residential ratepayers of a transmission and distribution utility the anticipated effects of all deferred costs approved by the commission on residential transmission and distribution utility rates and to publish this information on the commission's publicly accessible website by November 1, 2023. The commission must provide this information along with any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, which may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 924 Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 66 provides that the Legislature approves the construction of a 1,200-megawatt capacity, 345-kilovolt transmission line and associated interconnection facilities pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C. The resolve specifies that the Legislature does not, through the passage of the resolve, provide approval for the transmission line to cross or utilize designated public lands.