

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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LD 987 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Proceeding to Explore Strategies to Procure Standard-offer Service in a Manner that Promotes the Stability of Residential Standard-offer Rates

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 39 directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding to develop a procurement strategy and consider other measures that could be used to increase rate stability for residential customers that receive standard-offer service. In the proceeding, the commission must consider the use of varied contract lengths and terms to reduce price volatility from year to year.

LD 1065 An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 182 amends the law governing the Telecommunications Relay Services Council to reduce the number of members appointed by the Governor from 8 to 6 by removing the member of a telephone association and the member representing a company that provides telecommunications relay services. It adds a member from the Maine Connectivity Authority appointed by the president of the authority. It also directs the council to hire a part-time executive director and establishes the duties of the executive director.

LD 1101 An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 259 directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a home energy scoring system for residential buildings for the purposes of evaluating a building's energy efficiency. The trust must establish a process by which a recipient of a home energy score may voluntarily report the score to the trust and establish and maintain a database of home energy scores.

LD 1223 An Act to Clarify Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 313 provides that a shared-use pole owner may not require a municipality, as a condition of the municipality's attachment to the pole, to purchase and maintain a general liability insurance policy with a limit in excess of \$5,000,000 per occurrence. It clarifies that the provision of the Maine Tort Claims Act relating to insurance coverage applies to the

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municipality's liability limits and areas of liability if the municipality purchases such coverage. The law includes a repeal date of October 1, 2028.

LD 1408 An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 353 does the following.

1. It requires the Bureau of Forestry to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters a copy of any report related to wood processing that the bureau submits to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry management matters.
2. It amends the definition of net generating capacity for the purposes of the combined heat and power program to exclude energy provided behind the meter to facilities adjacent to an electric generating facility.
3. It increases the allowable net generating capacity of a combined heat and power program participant to no more than 15 megawatts and increases the total net generating capacity for all combined heat and power program participants to no more than 30 megawatts.
4. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate combined heat and power projects on a technology-specific basis when determining whether a project is highly efficient.
5. It limits the combined heat and power program to contracts for only energy instead of energy, capacity resources and renewable energy credits.
6. It establishes criteria to allow a combined heat and power program participant located in the service territory of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility to provide energy to an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility pursuant to a long-term contract under the program.

LD 1427 An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Provide Financial Assistance to Low-income Households in Emergency Situations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 201 allows the Public Utilities Commission, as part of a low-income assistance program, to provide financial assistance to low-income households in emergency situations as determined by the commission in a proceeding or by rule. It also requires the commission to identify the sources of low-income assistance program funds in its annual report to