

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> 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

131<sup>ST</sup> 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.

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

Resolve 2023, chapter 150 also requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor’s Energy Office, the Efficiency Maine Trust, relevant state agencies and representatives from school leadership, including superintendents, business officers and facilities managers, to develop contracting guidance for public elementary and secondary schools to assist the schools with saving money through energy efficiency, clean energy and clean transportation projects. No later than January 31, 2025, the Department of Education must provide a report, including draft guidance, 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 education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

### **LD 1775 An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 554 requires the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Governor’s Energy Office and the Department of Environmental Protection, to develop and oversee a pilot program designed to select a proposal for the development and operation of a clean hydrogen facility. To be selected for participation in the program, the facility must be located in the State, meet requirements for a 100% clean hydrogen production tax credit under the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and IRS production tax credit regulations, have a peak electricity demand of no more than 20 megawatts and meet other requirements. After selecting one facility for participation in the program, the commission is required to direct the transmission and distribution utility in whose territory the facility is located to negotiate with that facility for a special contract that may be approved by the commission. A facility selected for the program must meet specified wage requirements and meet clean hydrogen production volumes identified in the proposal it submits for participation in the program.

### **LD 1932 An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 514 requires a provider of broadband Internet access service to provide a customer with a pro rata credit or rebate for the days of the monthly billing period after the cancellation of broadband Internet access service if that customer requests cancellation of service three or more working days before the end of the monthly billing period. It also requires a broadband Internet access service provider to provide a customer, upon the customer’s request, with a pro rata credit or rebate if the customer’s broadband Internet access service is interrupted for six or more consecutive hours in a single billing period. A customer is not eligible to receive a pro rata credit or rebate for an interruption in broadband Internet access service if the interruption was caused by an act beyond the reasonable control of the provider. Broadband Internet access service providers must include on each customer bill a notice of the customer’s right to receive a pro rata credit or rebate for a cancellation of service or an interruption in service.