

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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September 19, 2023 and for which a system impact study has been filed. A project pairing eligible Class IA resources with an energy storage system is also eligible to be selected for a contract. In conducting a solicitation and selecting projects for contracts, the commission must consider the expected effect of eligible Class IA resources on other renewable resources due to congestion and curtailment, select only those eligible Class IA resources or combined projects for contracts that will benefit ratepayers and give a primary preference to those eligible Class IA resources or combined projects that are located on contaminated lands and secondary preference to eligible Class IA resources or combined projects that minimize use of farmland that is not contaminated land and minimize use of forested land. The commission must use procured renewable energy credits to offset a standard-offer service provider's renewable resource portfolio requirements.

The law also requires the Governor's Energy Office, in consultation with the commission, to review the status and impacts of the implementation of the State's renewable resources portfolio requirements and submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The first report must be submitted by March 31, 2024 and subsequent reports every three years thereafter.

LD 1654 An Act to Extend the Time for Certain Public Utilities Commission Proceedings

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 168 extends the time period during which the Public Utilities Commission may make determinations on rate increases, affiliate transactions, reorganizations and certificates of public convenience and necessity. It allows for an extension of a period of suspension of the operation of a schedule of a public utility under certain circumstances. It extends the period of approval for a petition for a proposed transmission line from nine to 12 months.

LD 1655 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Consumer-owned Water Utilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 325 does the following.

1. It increases the gross annual revenues thresholds that trigger audits for qualified small water utilities and permits the Public Utilities Commission, for good cause shown, to waive the requirements for an annual review or audit for qualified small water utilities.
2. It exempts consumer-owned water utilities from certain requirements, including authorization by the commission for the issuance of stocks, bonds and notes.
3. It removes the requirement that consumer-owned water utilities publish notices of public hearings and rate changes in a newspaper and instead provides the commission with the authority to prescribe the manner in which notice is provided to customers of these utilities.

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4. It increases the total annual revenues thresholds that classify what qualifies as a small, medium and large consumer-owned water utility.
5. It creates an expedited rate adjustment mechanism for consumer-owned water utilities to allow for up to a 1.5% increase in the current total annual revenue as long as proper notice is provided.
6. It creates a process for two or more consumer-owned water utilities to petition the commission to consolidate into a single utility. The commission must report annually on consolidation activities to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters and include in that report draft charter language that the committee may report out to create the new consolidated utility.

LD 1692 An Act to Create the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 15 establishes the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District, pending voter referendum.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 15 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 26, 2023.

LD 1693 An Act to Amend the Kennebunk Sewer District Charter

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 7 amends the charter of the Kennebunk Sewer District to update the description of the district's territorial limits.

LD 1724 An Act to Enact the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 328 does the following.

1. It enacts the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act which includes provisions that do the following.
 - A. It allows the Governor's Energy Office to petition the Public Utilities Commission to procure energy from renewable resources and allows the commission to initiate a competitive solicitation to approve one or more contracts for energy from renewable resources.