

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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3. It establishes a visual impact standard to evaluate the effect of the development of an offshore wind terminal.
4. It requires the Office of Tax Policy in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources and the Governor's Energy Office, to develop the Fishing Community Tax Incentive Program to provide tax credits to applicants for qualified investments in offshore wind power projects. The Office of Tax Policy is required to publicize and seek public comment on the proposed program before submitting it, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024.

LD 1933 An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 11 increases the debt limit of the Limerick Water District from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 11 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2023.

LD 1943 An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy Development in Northern Maine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 371 directs the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request for proposals for the development and construction of renewable energy generation projects in northern Maine to maximize the use of the transmission line proposal selected in accordance with the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program. The law provides that the commission must conduct the request for proposals and approval of contracts, if practicable, on a schedule to allow selected projects to seek inclusion in the Third Maine Resource Integration Study and the subsequent cluster system impact study.

LD 1950 An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 8 increases the total amount of debt the Stonington Water Company may incur from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

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Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 8 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 13, 2023.

LD 1971 Resolve, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 104 ensures that an eligible customer of an electric utility receives a payment from the Energy Rate Relief Fund under Resolve 2021, chapter 168 even if that customer did not receive a February 2022 invoice from that electric utility.

Resolve 2023, chapter 104 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective July 26, 2023.

LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 411 does the following.

1. It establishes the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program to obtain and provide federal funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in the State.
2. It limits participation in the kilowatt hour credit and tariff rate net energy billing programs for distributed generation resources with a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to one megawatt and less than or equal to two megawatts to those resources that, on or before December 31, 2024, reach commercial operation by the date specified in the net energy billing agreement or by the date specified with an allowable modification to that agreement.
3. After December 31, 2023, it limits participation in the tariff rate net energy billing program to distributed generation resources that are collocated with all of the distributed generation resource's net energy billing customers and those customers are subscribed to 100% of the facility's output. The limitation does not apply to a distributed generation resource with a net energy billing agreement that was executed on or before December 31, 2023.
4. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually determine the net energy billing costs and the benefits of distributed generation under net energy billing programs for the previous year and to allocate to each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility its pro rata share of net energy billing costs. The allocation must be based on each utility's total retail kilowatt-hour energy sales to ratepayers that pay net energy billing costs.