

# 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  
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

**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

131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



## 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.

**LD 1962 Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 145 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility terminations and disconnections of service to residential customers for unpaid utility bills. The rules must prohibit the termination or disconnection of electric and gas utility service during extreme weather or temperature conditions, including extreme heat or humidity, between April 16th and November 14th and establish a threshold dollar amount greater than \$50 owed by a customer who does not pay or make a payment arrangement on an undisputed overdue utility bill at or above which the utility may terminate or disconnect utility service. The rules must also prohibit a transmission and distribution utility from charging restoration or reconnection fees or late fees or requiring a security deposit in connection with the restoration of service if the customer is a low-income customer.

**LD 1963 An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 660 does the following.

1. It provides that a transmission line or lines developed under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2 and proposed within the unorganized or deorganized areas of the State are reviewed and permits are issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.
2. It defines an “employer and employee harmony agreement” and provides that the Public Utilities Commission must give preference to proposals for the development and operation of a transmission line or lines or renewable generation projects under Title 35-A, section 3210-I, that maximize federal tax credits by including agreements described in 29 United States Code, Section 158(f) and committing to entering into an employer and employee harmony agreement with a labor organization seeking to represent workers on those projects.
3. In administering the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program, it directs the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Governor’s Energy Office, to seek to partner with other states, governmental entities or utilities within New England.
4. It provides that the Public Utilities Commission’s request for proposals under Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2 must be for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines necessary to connect at least 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy resources located in northern Maine, instead of for the development and construction of a 345-kilovolt double circuit generation connection line, or, in the commission’s discretion, a transmission line or lines of greater capacity.