

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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

131ST 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 2245 An Act to Clarify the Definition of “Underground Facility” and Reduce Administrative Burdens Under the So-called Dig Safe Law

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 572 does the following.

1. It amends the definition of an “underground facility” to include any item of personal property buried or placed below ground for use in connection with the storage or conveyance of liquefied propane gas.
2. It excludes from the definition of “underground facility” liquefied propane gas distribution systems that have underground pipes when that system is located on a residential lot that has no more than one structure connected by underground pipes to the liquefied propane gas distribution system, the structure has no more than two dwelling units and the liquefied propane gas tank is located 25 feet or less from the structure.
3. It amends the definition of an “underground facility operator” to include the owner or operator of an underground facility used in furnishing liquefied propane gas service.
4. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rule Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements to reduce the administrative burdens for underground facility operators under the so-called Dig Safe law and specifies that rules adopted for these purposes are routine technical rules.

LD 2254 An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 596 provides that consumer-owned water utilities, consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District may include or incorporate in operating expenses to be recovered in rates expenditures related to notifying the public of or conducting trustee elections and local referendum elections directly related to or legally required for the operation of such utilities. The law also permits consumer-owned water utilities, consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District to include or incorporate in operating expenses to be recovered in rates expenditures for lobbying or grassroots lobbying.

Public Law 2023, chapter 596 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2024.