

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND 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**

August 2025

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

LD 241 An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 137 allows a water utility or a group of water utilities to petition the Public Utilities Commission to approve a low-income assistance program. The commission may approve a proposed program if it determines that the proposal is a cost-effective way to keep water affordable for low-income residential ratepayers.

LD 293 An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 2 increases the maximum debt limit for the Boothbay Region Water District from \$12,000,000 to \$19,000,000.

LD 300 Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 39 requires the Governor's Energy Office to conduct two studies in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Emergency Management Agency within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

The office must conduct a study reviewing the current operation of and opportunities for the expansion of hydroelectric power and energy storage in the State for the purpose of evaluating methods to revitalize the hydroelectric power industry. The study must include a review of findings of any previous studies of hydroelectric power facilities in this State; a review of new technologies being used in hydroelectric power facilities; consultation with hydroelectric power facilities in three other states; and identification of locations in the State that may be suitable for the development of pumped storage hydropower systems.

The office must also conduct a study to evaluate the potential for the development of a geothermal power plant or other geothermal power generation system or space heating and cooling system in the State. In conducting the study, the office must consult with persons with expertise in the geologic engineering field regarding the feasibility of establishing a geothermal power plant in the State and must assess the potential for developing district geothermal systems on brownfield sites or state-owned properties or at state-owned facilities.

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The office must submit reports based on each study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by January 15, 2027. Both studies must take into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation and storage of energy sources.

LD 301 An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Use Quantitative Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms in a Proceeding for a General Rate Increase

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 198 allows the Public Utilities Commission to establish or authorize rate-adjustment mechanisms or quantitative metrics pertaining to a public utility's operations and activities in a proceeding for a general increase in rates.

LD 466 An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 19 changes the repeal date of the law governing electric power and service residential rates for military veterans' organizations from September 1, 2025 to October 1, 2027.

Public Law 2025, chapter 19 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 2025.

LD 481 An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 23 provides that if a water district, prior to a default in the payment of the principal of or interest on a note, bond or other evidence of indebtedness, makes a determination that the district's anticipated revenues from the normal payment of water charges will not be sufficient to pay the district's anticipated operating expenses, the water district may borrow money to pay the principal and interest and other transaction costs related to the borrowing and may issue the district's warrant immediately to those portions of the municipality or municipalities that constitute the district to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest.