

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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  
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**LD 810 An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 340 provides that a high-impact electric transmission line is deemed to have received the majority legislative approval required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C if the high-impact electric transmission line is approved for a contract after a competitive procurement conducted by the Public Utilities Commission or a state agency pursuant to statutory authority granted under Title 35-A.

**LD 837 An Act to Require Positions Taken by the Public Advocate to Be Consistent with the Cost-effective Implementation of the State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Obligations**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 118 requires the Public Advocate, when taking a position on any matter in any proceeding or forum pursuant to the Public Advocate's authority, to exercise independent judgment to ensure that the Public Advocate's position is consistent with the cost-effective implementation for ratepayers of greenhouse gas emissions reductions obligations.

**LD 860 An Act to Allow the Public Advocate to Obtain Information from Public Utilities, Competitive Electricity Providers and Standard-offer Service Providers**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 123 amends the duties of the Public Advocate to include the review and investigation of the reasonableness and adequacy of the service or the terms and conditions of such service furnished or proposed to be furnished by any public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider. The law also allows the Public Advocate to make recommendations to the Legislature with respect to its review and investigation.

The law repeals and replaces existing law to clarify existing provisions and adds specific authority for the Public Advocate to petition the Public Utilities Commission for information or data from a public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider that is necessary for the Public Advocate to carry out the purposes of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 17. To the extent that the information or data would otherwise be confidential pursuant to applicable laws and rules, the Public Advocate, the public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider may request that the commission issue a protective order to protect such information or data from disclosure.

The law also directs the Office of the Public Advocate to conduct a study and prepare a report regarding rates and business practices of standard-offer service providers and competitive

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electricity providers. In conducting the study and preparing a report, the office is required to consult with and solicit recommendations from interested parties. The final report must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 3, 2025, and the committee may report out legislation based on the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Public Law 2025, chapter 123 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2025.

**LD 861 An Act to Prohibit the Public Advocate and a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission from Certain Employment Activities Following Service**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 406 prohibits the Public Advocate or a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission serving or appointed on or after December 15, 2025, until 12 months after the completion of the Public Advocate's or commissioner's service, from soliciting or accepting employment from a public utility. The law also prohibits, until 12 months after the completion of service, a commissioner from appearing before the commission in a proceeding for compensation and the Public Advocate from appearing before the commission in a proceeding for compensation on behalf of a person, other than a state agency or quasi-independent state entity, if that person was a party to an adjudicatory proceeding in which the Public Advocate was a party during the Public Advocate's term of service. The law is enforced by the Office of the Attorney General and an individual who violates the law is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence.

**LD 873 An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 38 authorizes the municipal officers of a municipality having a population of more than 30,000 inhabitants to revoke the location of a utility pole when required for the public safety and welfare.

**LD 905 An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 50 changes the mechanism by which a transmission and distribution utility is required to remit the value of unused kilowatt-hour credits that were accumulated and that expired during the prior calendar year by requiring the utility to remit the value to the administrators of the statewide low-income assistance plan and the individual low-income