

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 1212 Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 54 requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Governor's Energy Office, to work with representatives of the modern wood heating system industry to study and make recommendations relating to programs and incentives encouraging the promotion and use of modern wood heating systems in the State. The Efficiency Maine Trust must submit a report related to the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 3, 2025 and the committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 1240 An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 54 adjusts the time frame for the ongoing submission dates for certain reviews and reports required of transmission and distribution utilities and the Public Utilities Commission to align with the integrated grid planning process required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3147.

The law requires that, beginning May 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, a transmission and distribution utility submit a 10-year plan that includes specific actions for addressing the expected effects of climate change on the utility's assets needed to transmit and distribute electricity to its customers.

Prior to the enactment of Public Law 2025, chapter 54, the Public Utilities Commission was required to conduct a review, or contract with a consultant to conduct a review, related to available grid-enhancing technology every five years beginning in 2025. The law adjusts the schedule of reviews by requiring a review in 2027, and then every five years thereafter. The review conducted in 2027 must update the review conducted in 2025.

LD 1258 An Act to Include Qualified Out-of-state Electric Vehicle Providers and Clarify Provisions Regarding Electric Bicycles Under the Electric Vehicle Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 317 amends the law establishing the Electric Vehicle Fund incentive program to include that to be eligible for an incentive an electric vehicle may be purchased or leased from an out-of-state authorized licensee of the original equipment manufacturer or an out-

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

of-state licensed automobile dealer if the seller or lessor meets all requirements applicable to in-state sellers or lessors as determined by the trust. The law also clarifies the eligibility requirements applicable to incentives for electric bicycles under the incentive program.

LD 1270 An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 476 eliminates the Governor's Energy Office, creates a new cabinet-level Department of Energy Resources and transfers the functions of the Governor's Energy Office to the new department.

The Department of Energy Resources has responsibility for oversight of state energy policies, programs and development efforts, is the designated state energy office and is directed to assess energy supply and infrastructure needs while aligning with the State's greenhouse gas reduction targets. The department also administers the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program and the Maine Energy Resources Development Program and coordinates state energy policy and actively fosters cooperation with the Efficiency Maine Trust. The law establishes a process for the conduct of competitive solicitations by the department.

The Commissioner of Energy Resources is appointed by the Governor and is responsible for developing and implementing the comprehensive state energy plan, overseeing energy efficiency efforts and supporting renewable energy goals, including reducing energy costs, increasing renewable energy capacity and lowering oil dependence. The law establishes the salary range of the commissioner and deputy commissioner, adds the commissioner as a nonvoting member of the board of directors of the Maine Technology Institute and authorizes the commissioner to act as a representative of the State in the regional greenhouse gas initiative. The law also makes certain changes to the membership of the Maine State Housing Authority and the Finance Authority of Maine.

The law requires the Department of Energy Resources to work with staff from the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to develop legislation to effect the transition of responsibilities from the Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources.

LD 1412 An Act to Increase Contingency Reserves for Maine's Consumer-owned Electric Transmission and Distribution Utilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 214 increases the amount that a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility may keep in a contingency reserve fund to reflect up to a 35% addition to yearly revenues over the amount required to operate the utility. It removes the language that excluded