

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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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

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any purchased power supply costs from this formula. The law allows the Public Utilities Commission to authorize a consumer-owned utility to keep a contingency reserve fund to reflect an amount greater than a 35% addition to yearly revenues over the amount required to operate the utility.

LD 1436 An Act to Update and Clarify Provisions Related to 9-1-1 Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 167 makes the following changes to the statutory provisions related to 9-1-1 services.

1. It updates and adds terminology to be consistent with modernized 9-1-1 systems and federal standards.
2. It clarifies rule-making authority by designating the Public Utilities Commission as the entity responsible for rulemaking instead of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau within the commission and makes all rulemaking under the emergency services communication laws routine technical.
3. It reorganizes the provisions of law related to 9-1-1 funding.
4. It expands the granting authority of the bureau to allow grants, subject to available funds, to be used to consolidate two or more public safety answering points and dispatch centers into a new regional public safety answering point and dispatch center or transfer a public safety answering point and all of its dispatch services to another existing public safety answering point. It also changes the allowable funding cap for nonrecurring costs to \$1,000,000 per biennium.
5. It removes the requirement that the bureau reimburse local exchange carriers and cellular and wireless telecommunications service providers for eligible expenses incurred by the carriers and service providers.
6. It removes the requirement regarding the inclusion of 9-1-1 information in telephone directories.
7. It expands the application of provisions related to the information required to be provided to the commission in order to maintain the 9-1-1 database and services and the coordination of 9-1-1 service from local exchange carriers only to originating service providers.
8. It changes the definition of “cellular or wireless telecommunications service” in current law to clarify that required timing of the payment does not affect whether a service meets the definition of “cellular or wireless telecommunications service.”