

# 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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LINDSAY J. LAXON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

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

**LD 1686 An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes,  
Title 35-A**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 110 makes the following changes to provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A governing public utilities.

1. It clarifies the funding sources for activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman to be consistent with Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part WWW, section 1.
2. It updates the Public Utilities Commission's annual reporting requirements to include a cross-reference to specific reporting requirements related to beneficial electrification for clarity. It also removes the requirement that the commission include in its annual report on low-income assistance programs an assessment of the effectiveness of the oxygen pump benefit and the ventilator benefit with respect to covering only those electric charges directly related to use of an oxygen pump or ventilator by the program participants.
3. It clarifies that a consumer-owned water utility is not subject to the requirements related to the issuance of stocks, bonds and notes, even if the utility's charter established in law requires authorization by the Public Utilities Commission.
4. It amends penalty provisions relating to violations committed by natural gas pipeline utilities and gas utilities to align with federal regulations.
5. It amends the maximum rate adjustment that a consumer-owned water utility may propose from 1.5% of current total annual revenue to 1.5% of current rates.
6. It aligns the entities required to contribute to the commission's telecommunications education access fund with the entities required to contribute to the Maine Universal Service Fund.

**LD 1700 An Act to Create a Direct Investment Pilot Project Under the Maine Clean Energy  
and Sustainability Accelerator**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 223 clarifies that the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator may provide capital to qualified projects in the form of direct loans and directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish and administer a renewable energy generation and grid technology pilot project through the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator. Under the pilot project, the trust must provide financing or investment services for renewable energy generation and grid technology such as storage to support clean energy distribution, including microgrids and smart grid applications. Within 24 months of the effective date of the law, and as long as sufficient funds are available, the trust must use no less than \$1,000,000 of the funds held within the accelerator to