

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
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**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

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provide all types of investments and financial services authorized under the accelerator to renewable energy generation and grid technology projects. By January 29, 2028, the trust must provide a report on the pilot project to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters, and the committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

LD 1726 An Act to Enhance the Coordination and Effectiveness of Integrated Distribution Grid Planning

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 293 does the following.

1. It requires the Governor's Energy Office to seek to ensure consistency in energy planning and analysis, including through the use of an energy forecasting method consistent with the method used by the office in preparing the comprehensive state energy plan.
2. It requires grid plans filed by certain transmission and distribution utilities, when appropriate, to consider the energy forecasting method used to prepare the comprehensive state energy plan. It also specifies that available and emerging technologies, which must be analyzed in the grid plan filing, include the use of advanced conductors and grid-enhancing technologies. These changes to the grid plan filing established by the law take effect February 1, 2026.
3. It allows the Public Utilities Commission, in a competitive solicitation, to use grid plan filings to develop requests for proposals, evaluate bids and negotiate agreements in order to optimize grid capacity.
4. It requires the commission, in consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Office of the Public Advocate, to conduct a review of the nonwires alternative investigation and recommendation process established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132-C. By March 1, 2026, the commission must provide a report of its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.
5. It requires the commission to explore and evaluate the feasibility of adopting emerging flexible interconnection options in order to use distributed energy resources, increase grid capacity, decrease grid instability and reduce costs. By February 15, 2026, the commission must submit an initial report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters summarizing the commission's activities and, by February 15, 2027, the commission must submit a final report to that committee.