MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

May 2026

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jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters on the evaluation required by Resolve 2025, chapter 131.

LD 1936 An Act Regarding the Allocation of Net Energy Billing Costs and Long-term Contract Costs and Benefits

Public Law 2025, chapter 555 removes the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission allocate to each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility its pro rata share of certain costs and instead requires the commission, for post-restructuring stranded cost allocations and rate designs applicable on or after July 1, 2028, to allocate net energy billing costs and eligible costs and benefits associated with long-term contracts by aggregating similar classes of customers across investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities and ensuring that costs and benefits are distributed equitably. The law adds a cross-reference regarding beneficial electrification and amends the provision of law governing long-term contract costs to include costs associated with contracts entered into as a result of procurements by the Department of Energy Resources.

LD 1949 An Act Regarding Energy Fairness

Public Law 2025, chapter 588 requires the Public Utilities Commission, in executing its duties, powers and regulatory functions under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, while ensuring system reliability, to consider the impact on affordability for residential customers. Public Law 2025, chapter 588 also does the following.

1. It requires the commission to publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding credit and collection activities of a transmission and distribution utility with more than 50,000 customers that is submitted to the commission by the utility in accordance with commission rules. The commission must ensure that the data is provided in a clear and transparent manner.

2. It requires the commission to conduct a comprehensive review of each component of electric delivery rates. In conducting the review, the commission must consider, at a minimum, options that aim to contain customer costs in electric delivery rates, reduce transmission and distribution utility bill volatility and increase transmission and distribution utility bill transparency. By January 31, 2027, the commission must submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters informing the committee of its work to date on the comprehensive review. The commission must submit a final report to the committee by December 15, 2027.

3. It requires the commission to develop an affordability metric to be used to assess the impact of electricity bills on the overall energy burden for residential customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. By January 15, 2027, the commission must submit an interim report regarding the development of the affordability metric to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The commission must submit a final report to the committee by December 15, 2027.