

STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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**

October 2023

MEMBERS:

SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE, CHAIR
SEN. NICOLE GROHOSKI
SEN. MATTHEW HARRINGTON

REP. STANLEY PAIGE ZEIGLER, JR., CHAIR
REP. CHRISTOPHER J. KESSLER
REP. VALLI D. GEIGER
REP. JAMES A. BOYLE
REP. SOPHIA B. WARREN
REP. WALTER GERARD RUNTE, JR.
REP. STEVEN D. FOSTER
REP. MARK MICHAEL BABIN
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY
REP. REAGAN L. PAUL

STAFF:

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

SUBJECT INDEX

Agency Matters - PUC/OPA/GEO/EMT

Enacted	LD 177	An Act to Amend the Authority of the Public Utilities Commission Regarding Access to Information in Proceedings Involving Special Rate Contracts	PUBLIC 64
	LD 194	An Act to Update and Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Reporting Requirements	PUBLIC 77
	LD 395	An Act to Expand Funding Sources Within the Public Utilities Commission for Intervenor and Participant Funding	PUBLIC 143
	LD 1065	An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director	PUBLIC 182
	LD 1654	An Act to Extend the Time for Certain Public Utilities Commission Proceedings	PUBLIC 168
Not Enacted	LD 340	An Act Regarding the Purpose and Responsibilities of the State Regulatory System for Public Utilities	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 1452	An Act to Require the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to Be Popularly Elected	Majority (ONTP) Report

Biomass

Enacted	LD 1408	An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel	PUBLIC 353
Not Enacted	LD 1489	Resolve, to Capitalize on Opportunities from Newly Revised Federal Renewable Fuels Standards by Studying the Environmental and Economic Benefits of Electric and Steam Generation Facilities Powered by Biomass	ONTP

Broadband/ConnectME Authority/Maine Connectivity Authority

Enacted	LD 1456	Resolve, to Study the Effect of Current Laws and Rules on the Expansion of Broadband	RESOLVE 81
----------------	---------	--	------------

Not Enacted	LD 1167	An Act to Require Communications Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills for Cancellation and Allow a Reduction in Service for a Customer with an Outstanding Balance	ONTP
	LD 1791	An Act to Make the ConnectMaine Authority Responsible for Attachments to and Joint Use of Utility Poles and to Establish Procedures for Broadband Service Infrastructure Crossing Railroad Tracks	ONTP
	LD 1932	An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills	CARRIED OVER

Cable Television

Not Enacted	LD 1967	An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements	CARRIED OVER
--------------------	---------	--	--------------

Dig Safe

Enacted	LD 1479	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Liquefied Propane Gas Systems and the So-called Dig Safe Law	RESOLVE 47
----------------	---------	--	------------

Distributed Generation

Enacted	LD 327	An Act to Provide Maine Ratepayers with Equitable Access to Interconnection of Distributed Generation Resources	PUBLIC 307
Not Enacted	LD 2016	An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group	CARRIED OVER

E911

Enacted	LD 1828	An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points	PUBLIC 186
----------------	---------	--	------------

Electric Vehicles

Enacted	LD 256	An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program	PUBLIC 140
----------------	--------	--	------------

	LD 519	Resolve, to Evaluate a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses	RESOLVE 32
Not Enacted	LD 122	An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project	CARRIED OVER
	LD 524	An Act Requiring the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in New Commercial and Multifamily Parking Lot Construction	Died Between Houses
	LD 1623	An Act to Prohibit All State Subsidies for Electric Vehicles	Majority (ONTP) Report

Electricity

Enacted	LD 496	An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning	PUBLIC 215
	LD 924	Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	RESOLVE 66
	LD 1850	An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals	PUBLIC 374
	LD 1887	An Act to Clarify the Review and Procurement Process for Nonwires Alternatives	PUBLIC 355
	LD 1943	An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy Development in Northern Maine	PUBLIC 371
	LD 2013	An Act to Address Abandoned Capital Credits Held by Rural Electrification Cooperatives	PUBLIC 483
Not Enacted	LD 357	An Act to Require the Nonwires Alternative Coordinator to Review and Analyze Plans to Build, Upgrade or Replace a Substation	ONTP
	LD 589	An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers	CARRIED OVER
	LD 699	An Act to Reduce Future Energy Costs	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1611	An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility	ONTP
	LD 1963	An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine	CARRIED OVER

Electricity Rates/Consumer Protection

Enacted	LD 69	Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Consider Methods to Educate Customers About Electricity Supply	RESOLVE 12
	LD 187	An Act to Eliminate the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund and to Provide Needs-based Low-income Assistance	PUBLIC 306
	LD 414	An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers	PUBLIC 145
	LD 542	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Investigate Time-of-use Rates	RESOLVE 79
	LD 923	An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers	PUBLIC 121
	LD 987	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Proceeding to Explore Strategies to Procure Standard-offer Service in a Manner that Promotes the Stability of Residential Standard-offer Rates	RESOLVE 39
	LD 1427	An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Provide Financial Assistance to Low-income Households in Emergency Situations	PUBLIC 201
	LD 2012	An Act to Prohibit Early Termination Fees for Residential Electric Generation Service Contracts	PUBLIC 375
Not Enacted	LD 297	An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits	CARRIED OVER
	LD 683	An Act to Reduce Electricity Rates	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1175	An Act to Provide for the Review and Uniform Application of All Transmission and Distribution Utility Rates	ONTP
	LD 1727	An Act to Protect Northern Maine Standard-offer Ratepayers	Majority (ONTP) Report

Energy Efficiency

Enacted	LD 1101	An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System	PUBLIC 259
Not Enacted	LD 412	An Act to Fully Engage the Efficiency Maine Trust in Mitigating Climate Change by Creating Electrification Programs	CARRIED OVER

LD 1606 An Act to Finance Clean Energy and Infrastructure in Maine CARRIED OVER

LD 1778 An Act to Ensure a Sustainable Electric Grid Majority (ONTP) Report

Energy Planning

Enacted LD 952 Resolve, to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid RESOLVE 67

Energy Policy

Enacted LD 1724 An Act to Enact the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act PUBLIC 328

Hydropower

Not Enacted LD 965 An Act to Subsidize Hydroelectric Power ONTP

Miscellaneous

Enacted LD 924 Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program RESOLVE 66

LD 1223 An Act to Clarify Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment PUBLIC 313

LD 1971 Resolve, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund RESOLVE 104

Not Enacted LD 266 An Act to Increase Consumer Choice and Reduce Motor Vehicle Emissions in Maine ONTP

LD 697 Resolve, to Study the Effects of 5G Technology on Bird, Bee and Insect Populations and the Effects of Long-term Exposure on Children Died Between Houses

LD 939 An Act to Support Environmental Justice by Requiring Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections Majority (ONTP) Report

LD 1775 An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program CARRIED OVER

LD 1889 An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System CARRIED OVER

Natural Gas

Enacted LD 698 An Act to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Renewably Sourced Gas PUBLIC 222

Net Energy Billing

Enacted LD 509 An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Direct Expiring Net Energy Billing Credits to Provide Low-income Assistance PUBLIC 230

LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems PUBLIC 411

Not Enacted LD 417 An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing CARRIED OVER

LD 1347 An Act to Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing Policy in Maine Died Between Houses

LD 1465 An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing CARRIED OVER

LD 1778 An Act to Ensure a Sustainable Electric Grid Majority (ONTP) Report

Nuclear Power

Not Enacted LD 486 An Act to Encourage Economic Development Through the Manufacture and Use of Marine Nuclear Power Modules ONTP

LD 689 An Act to Study the Construction of a Nuclear Power Facility in the State ONTP

LD 1549 An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State CARRIED OVER

Renewable Resources

Enacted LD 399 An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources and Require Money Collected from Alternative Compliance Payments to Be Used for Financial Assistance PUBLIC 361

	LD 1591	An Act to Promote Economic Reuse of Contaminated Land Through Clean Energy Development	PUBLIC 321
Not Enacted	LD 43	An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy	ONTP
	LD 175	An Act to Increase the Use of Municipal Waste-to-energy Processes as a Source of Renewable Energy	ONTP
	LD 297	An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits	CARRIED OVER
	LD 376	An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 437	An Act to Eliminate the Repeal Provision on Waste-to-energy Renewable Energy Credits	ONTP
	LD 442	An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 622	An Act to Create Equal Opportunity Access to Clean Energy by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Clean Energy Sources	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 1431	An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Promoting Renewable Energy	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 1830	An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1888	An Act to Reduce Electricity Costs for Maine's Consumers and Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Renewable Resources	Majority (ONTP) Report

Solar Energy

Enacted	LD 496	An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning	PUBLIC 215
Not Enacted	LD 1232	An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine	Died Between Houses
	LD 1531	Resolve, to Implement a 4-year Moratorium on Solar Energy Subsidies and Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Study the Economic Impact of Industrial Solar Energy Projects	Majority (ONTP) Report

Telecommunications

Enacted	LD 396	An Act to Preserve the 207 Area Code and Impede So-called Robocalling	PUBLIC 144
Not Enacted	LD 1167	An Act to Require Communications Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills for Cancellation and Allow a Reduction in Service for a Customer with an Outstanding Balance	ONTP
	LD 1379	An Act to Combat Unwanted Telephone Solicitations	ONTP

Utilities - General

Enacted	LD 325	An Act to Require Transparency in Public Utility Advertising Expenditures	PUBLIC 286
Not Enacted	LD 240	An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities	CARRIED OVER
	LD 421	An Act to Ensure Utility Acquisitions Benefit Maine People	ONTP
	LD 905	An Act to Expand Energy Choice Through Municipal Utilities	ONTP
	LD 1388	An Act to Protect Utility Customers and Improve Disclosure of Political and Advertising Spending by Public Utilities and Their Affiliates	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 1962	An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs	CARRIED OVER

Water/Sewer/Sanitary - General

Enacted	LD 211	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds	PUBLIC 137
	LD 1655	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Consumer-owned Water Utilities	PUBLIC 325
Not Enacted	LD 1111	An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction	CARRIED OVER

Water/Sewer/Sanitary Charters

Enacted	LD 640	An Act to Update the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority	P & S 3
	LD 925	An Act to Allow the Baileyville Utilities District to Disconnect Water Service for a Customer's Failure to Pay for Sewer Service Provided by the Town of Baileyville	P & S 6
	LD 1692	An Act to Create the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District	P & S 15
	LD 1693	An Act to Amend the Kennebunk Sewer District Charter	P & S 7
	LD 1933	An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District	P & S 11
	LD 1950	An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company	P & S 8

Wind Energy

Enacted	LD 1895	An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources	PUBLIC 481
Not Enacted	LD 1884	An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development	Majority (ONTP) Report

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	43	An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	69	Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Consider Methods to Educate Customers About Electricity Supply	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/26/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	12		S1
EUT	122	An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
EUT	175	An Act to Increase the Use of Municipal Waste-to-energy Processes as a Source of Renewable Energy	Reported Out	ONTP		2/8/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
EUT	177	An Act to Amend the Authority of the Public Utilities Commission Regarding Access to Information in Proceedings Involving Special Rate Contracts	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/14/23	Enacted	PL	64		S1
EUT	187	An Act to Eliminate the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund and to Provide Needs-based Low-income Assistance	Reported Out	OTP- AM/OTP- AM		5/24/23	Enacted	PL	306		S1
EUT	194	An Act to Update and Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Reporting Requirements	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/26/23	Enacted	PL	77		S1
EUT	211	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/22/23	Enacted	PL	137		S1
EUT	240	An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities	Carry Over Approved			7/25/23					S1
EUT	256	An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		5/22/23	Enacted	PL	140		S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	266	An Act to Increase Consumer Choice and Reduce Motor Vehicle Emissions in Maine	Reported Out	ONTP		3/10/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
EUT	297	An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	325	An Act to Require Transparency in Public Utility Advertising Expenditures	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		6/1/23	Enacted	PL	286		S1
EUT	327	An Act to Provide Maine Ratepayers with Equitable Access to Interconnection of Distributed Generation Resources	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	307		S1
EUT	340	An Act Regarding the Purpose and Responsibilities of the State Regulatory System for Public Utilities	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		4/4/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	357	An Act to Require the Nonwires Alternative Coordinator to Review and Analyze Plans to Build, Upgrade or Replace a Substation	Reported Out	ONTP		3/3/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
EUT	376	An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		3/10/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	395	An Act to Expand Funding Sources Within the Public Utilities Commission for Intervenor and Participant Funding	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/22/23	Enacted	PL	143		S1
EUT	396	An Act to Preserve the 207 Area Code and Impede So-called Robocalling	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/22/23	Enacted	PL	144		S1
EUT	399	An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources and Require Money Collected from Alternative Compliance Payments to Be Used for Financial Assistance	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP/ OTP-A		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	361		S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	412	An Act to Fully Engage the Efficiency Maine Trust in Mitigating Climate Change by Creating Electrification Programs	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	414	An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/17/23	Enacted	PL	145		S1
EUT	417	An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	421	An Act to Ensure Utility Acquisitions Benefit Maine People	Reported Out	ONTP		6/14/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	437	An Act to Eliminate the Repeal Provision on Waste-to-energy Renewable Energy Credits	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	442	An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		5/11/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	486	An Act to Encourage Economic Development Through the Manufacture and Use of Marine Nuclear Power Modules	Reported Out	ONTP		4/7/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	496	An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/2/23	Enacted	PL	215		S1
EUT	509	An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Direct Expiring Net Energy Billing Credits to Provide Low-income Assistance	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/6/23	Enacted	PL	230		S1
EUT	519	Resolve, to Evaluate a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		5/22/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	32		S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	524	An Act Requiring the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in New Commercial and Multifamily Parking Lot Construction	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		5/11/23	Died Between Houses				S1
EUT	542	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Investigate Time-of-use Rates	Reported Out	OTP-AM/OTP-AM/ONTP		6/1/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	79		S1
EUT	589	An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	622	An Act to Create Equal Opportunity Access to Clean Energy by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Clean Energy Sources	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		4/26/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	640	An Act to Update the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/26/23	Enacted	P&S	3		S1
EUT	683	An Act to Reduce Electricity Rates	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/27/23					S1
EUT	689	An Act to Study the Construction of a Nuclear Power Facility in the State	Reported Out	ONTP		3/29/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	697	Resolve, to Study the Effects of 5G Technology on Bird, Bee and Insect Populations and the Effects of Long-term Exposure on Children	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP/OTP-AM		5/25/23	Died Between Houses				S1
EUT	698	An Act to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Renewably Sourced Gas	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/22/23	Enacted	PL	222		S1
EUT	699	An Act to Reduce Future Energy Costs	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	905	An Act to Expand Energy Choice Through Municipal Utilities	Reported Out	ONTP		3/24/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	923	An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/11/23	Enacted	PL	121		S1
EUT	924	Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/6/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	66		S1
EUT	925	An Act to Allow the Baileyville Utilities District to Disconnect Water Service for a Customer's Failure to Pay for Sewer Service Provided by the Town of Baileyville	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/9/23	Enacted	P&S	6		S1
EUT	939	An Act to Support Environmental Justice by Requiring Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		4/14/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	952	Resolve, to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/6/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	67		S1
EUT	965	An Act to Subsidize Hydroelectric Power	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	987	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Proceeding to Explore Strategies to Procure Standard-offer Service in a Manner that Promotes the Stability of Residential Standard-offer Rates	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/24/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	39		S1
EUT	1065	An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/1/23	Enacted	PL	182		S1
EUT	1101	An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/6/23	Enacted	PL	259		S1
EUT	1111	An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	1167	An Act to Require Communications Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills for Cancellation and Allow a Reduction in Service for a Customer with an Outstanding Balance	Reported Out	ONTP		6/14/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1175	An Act to Provide for the Review and Uniform Application of All Transmission and Distribution Utility Rates	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1223	An Act to Clarify Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	313		S1
EUT	1232	An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Died Between Houses				S1
EUT	1347	An Act to Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing Policy in Maine	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Died Between Houses				S1
EUT	1379	An Act to Combat Unwanted Telephone Solicitations	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1388	An Act to Protect Utility Customers and Improve Disclosure of Political and Advertising Spending by Public Utilities and Their Affiliates	Reported Out	LTW		5/31/23	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1408	An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	353		S1
EUT	1427	An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Provide Financial Assistance to Low-income Households in Emergency Situations	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/1/23	Enacted	PL	201		S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	1431	An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Promoting Renewable Energy	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		6/6/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1452	An Act to Require the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to Be Popularly Elected	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		6/13/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1456	Resolve, to Study the Effect of Current Laws and Rules on the Expansion of Broadband	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/15/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	81		S1
EUT	1465	An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1479	Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Liquefied Propane Gas Systems and the So-called Dig Safe Law	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/2/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	47		S1
EUT	1489	Resolve, to Capitalize on Opportunities from Newly Revised Federal Renewable Fuels Standards by Studying the Environmental and Economic Benefits of Electric and Steam Generation Facilities Powered by Biomass	Reported Out	ONTP		4/28/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1531	Resolve, to Implement a 4-year Moratorium on Solar Energy Subsidies and Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Study the Economic Impact of Industrial Solar Energy Projects	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		6/6/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1549	An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP	Carried on floor	6/6/23					S1
EUT	1591	An Act to Promote Economic Reuse of Contaminated Land Through Clean Energy Development	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	321		S1
EUT	1606	An Act to Finance Clean Energy and Infrastructure in Maine	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	1611	An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility	Reported Out	ONTP		6/6/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
EUT	1623	An Act to Prohibit All State Subsidies for Electric Vehicles	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		6/15/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1654	An Act to Extend the Time for Certain Public Utilities Commission Proceedings	Reported Out	OTP		5/24/23	Enacted	PL	168		S1
EUT	1655	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Consumer-owned Water Utilities	Reported Out	OTP-AM/OTP-AM		6/12/23	Enacted	PL	325		S1
EUT	1692	An Act to Create the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/20/23	Emergency Enacted	P&S	15		S1
EUT	1693	An Act to Amend the Kennebunk Sewer District Charter	Reported Out	OTP		5/24/23	Enacted	P&S	7		S1
EUT	1724	An Act to Enact the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	328		S1
EUT	1727	An Act to Protect Northern Maine Standard-offer Ratepayers	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		6/12/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1775	An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1778	An Act to Ensure a Sustainable Electric Grid	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		6/20/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1791	An Act to Make the ConnectMaine Authority Responsible for Attachments to and Joint Use of Utility Poles and to Establish Procedures for Broadband Service Infrastructure Crossing Railroad Tracks	Reported Out	ONTP		6/6/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	1828	An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/2/23	Emergency Enacted	PL	186		S1
EUT	1830	An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1850	An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	374		S1
EUT	1884	An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP- AM		6/16/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1887	An Act to Clarify the Review and Procurement Process for Nonwires Alternatives	Reported Out	OTP- AM/OTP- AM		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	355		S1
EUT	1888	An Act to Reduce Electricity Costs for Maine's Consumers and Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Renewable Resources	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP- AM		6/20/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
EUT	1889	An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1895	An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		6/22/23	Enacted	PL	481		S1
EUT	1932	An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1933	An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District	Reported Out	OTP		6/6/23	Emergency Enacted	P&S	11		S1
EUT	1943	An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy Development in Northern Maine	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP		6/20/23	Enacted	PL	371		S1
EUT	1950	An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company	Reported Out	OTP		6/6/23	Emergency Enacted	P&S	8		S1
EUT	1962	An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1963	An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	1967	An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Laws		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
EUT	1971	Resolve, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/6/23	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	104		S1
EUT	1986	An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/22/23	Enacted	PL	411		S1
EUT	2016	An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
EUT	2012	An Act to Prohibit Early Termination Fees for Residential Electric Generation Service Contracts	Reported Out	OTP/ONTP		6/22/23	Enacted	PL	375		S1
EUT	2013	An Act to Address Abandoned Capital Credits Held by Rural Electrification Cooperatives	Reported Out	OTP		6/23/23	Enacted	PL	483		S1

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 69 Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Consider Methods to Educate Customers About Electricity Supply

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 12 requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request to competitive electricity providers and standard-offer service providers for information regarding the feasibility of providing the cost in cents per kilowatt-hour to transmission and distribution utilities for each power source used by the provider to serve its load. It also directs the commission to consider methods it could undertake to better educate electric consumers on their electric energy supply and the reasons for fluctuations in the price for that supply. By February 10, 2024, the commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes the information it receives from competitive electricity providers and standard-offer service providers and the consumer education methods it considered. The committee may report out a bill to the 131st Legislature in 2024.

LD 177 An Act to Amend the Authority of the Public Utilities Commission Regarding Access to Information in Proceedings Involving Special Rate Contracts

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 64 allows the Public Utilities Commission to deny or limit access to information by an attorney in a proceeding involving one or more special contracts if the information is customarily regarded as confidential business information, the information relates to the reasons or justification for the parties' entering into the special contract and the party represented by the attorney is not a party to the special contract with the utility. The commission may deny or limit access to information by any attorney in a proceeding involving one or more special contracts after providing the attorney with an opportunity to be heard and upon finding that the potential for harm from disclosure of the information outweighs the need for disclosure.

LD 187 An Act to Eliminate the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund and to Provide Needs-based Low-income Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 306 repeals the law establishing the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund. It requires alternative compliance payments made by competitive electricity providers to the Public Utilities Commission, instead of being deposited into the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund, to be used by the commission to provide financial assistance for low-income households.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 194 An Act to Update and Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Reporting Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 77 updates the Public Utilities Commission's annual reporting requirements to remove outdated provisions and establish cross-references to certain specific reporting requirements for clarity.

LD 211 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 137 amends the law governing the use of a water supply protection fund by a consumer-owned water utility. It provides that a consumer-owned water utility may use water supply protection funds to assist a holder to acquire interests in real property if that acquisition is reasonably likely to result in or contribute to the protection of a public water supply. If a consumer-owned water utility assists a holder in acquiring a conservation easement and the utility does not acquire through the transaction a fee interest in the property, the law requires the utility to obtain a third-party right of enforcement with respect to that easement. If a consumer-owned water utility assists a holder in acquiring a fee interest in real property, the utility must acquire a conservation easement unless the holder conveys a conservation easement to another holder, in which case the utility must obtain a third-party right of enforcement with respect to that conservation easement.

LD 256 An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 140 permits the Efficiency Maine Trust to extend eligibility under the electric vehicle rebate program to electric bicycles. If the trust extends eligibility to electric bicycles, the trust must limit the rebates for electric bicycles under the program to recipients who are low-income and moderate-income individuals and to entities that serve low-income and moderate-income individuals, as determined by the trust. For a recipient to receive a rebate for the purchase of an electric bicycle under the program, the electric bicycle must serve as the recipient's principal means of commuting, as determined by the trust.

LD 325 An Act to Require Transparency in Public Utility Advertising Expenditures

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 286 repeals the section of existing law governing the expenses a public utility may not include in its operating expenses and replaces it with a law that does the following.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

1. It prohibits a public utility from including in operating expenses to be recovered from rates certain expenses incurred by the public utility or an affiliated interest.
2. It permits certain public utilities to include in operating expenses those expenses related to educational expenditures and contributions to a trade association, chamber of commerce, or public charity.
3. It requires a public utility to file expense reports with the commission and make those reports available to the public for inspection.
4. It specifies that commission rules related to political activities, promotional advertising, charitable contributions, educational expenditures and institutional advertising are routine technical rules.
5. It requires the commission, by November 1, 2023, to initiate rulemaking to amend its rules to implement the requirements of the law.

LD 327 An Act to Provide Maine Ratepayers with Equitable Access to Interconnection of Distributed Generation Resources

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 307 makes several changes to the Maine Solar Energy Act and directs the Public Utilities Commission to engage in activities related to interconnection.

1. It creates a position within the commission for an interconnection ombudsman and establishes the duties of this position. It requires the commission to make a good faith effort to appoint an interconnection ombudsman within 12 months of the effective date of the law.
2. It directs the commission to monitor the level of solar energy development in the State, basic trends in solar energy markets and the relative costs and benefits of solar energy development. It requires the commission to provide, by January 1st of each year a summary report regarding its monitoring activities to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.
3. It directs the commission to adopt interconnection rules applicable to solar resources and to energy storage systems within six months of the effective date of the law. The rules must prioritize interconnection of solar resources and energy storage systems owned by customers of investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to offset on-site load.
4. It requires the commission to contract with an expert to conduct an evaluation of and issue a report addressing whether treating distributed generation resources that use the tariff rate program as load-reducing resources will provide greater value to all ratepayers than treating those resources as wholesale generation resources and whether the tariff rate established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35 A, section 3209-B, subsection 5 has been implemented in a

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

way that maximizes the value of the portfolio of the resources to all ratepayers. The commission must provide a copy of the expert's report and a description of any actions the commission recommends with respect to the findings in the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by September 1, 2024.

5. It requires the commission to establish an interconnection working group to collaborate to prevent and resolve disputes relating to the implementation of the State's small generator interconnection procedures for Level 1 and Level 2 facilities. The working group must meet monthly for its first year and at least quarterly thereafter until the working group submits its final report. The working group's final report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by December 6, 2025.

LD 395 An Act to Expand Funding Sources Within the Public Utilities Commission for Intervenor and Participant Funding

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 143 amends the law governing intervenor funding in the following ways.

1. It expands the law's applicability to include participants in nonadjudicatory proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission.
2. It includes administrative penalties collected by the commission in the allowable sources of funding for intervenor or participant participation in commission proceedings.
3. It limits funding for an intervenor or participant in a commission proceeding involving a water utility to only administrative penalties deposited in the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund.

LD 396 An Act to Preserve the 207 Area Code and Impede So-called Robocalling

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 144 establishes various requirements related to voice network service providers that acquire and place into service numbering resources for the State's numbering plan area from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator or its successor.

1. It requires voice network service providers to pay into the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund.
2. It provides the Public Utilities Commission with the authority to investigate voice network service providers for compliance with the requirements to contribute to the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

3. It requires the commission, by January 12, 2024, to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes information on compliance with the State's universal service fund and telecommunications education access fund requirements, an update on the commission's efforts to preserve the 207 area code and an analysis of whether additional efforts are needed to ensure numbering resources are used efficiently.

The law also creates a registration process for a provider of interconnected voice over Internet protocol service obtaining numbering resources in the State. It allows the commission to adopt routine technical rules relating to the registration process.

LD 399 An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources and Require Money Collected from Alternative Compliance Payments to Be Used for Financial Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 361 extends the repeal date to 2027 for the law that adds a 300% multiplier to the output of licensed power generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling for the purposes of meeting portfolio requirements for Class II resources. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to establish by rule an alternative compliance payment rate for Class II resources of not greater than \$10. Funds received by the commission for alternative compliance payments must be used to provide financial assistance for low-income households in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2.

LD 414 An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 145 requires a public utility seeking a change in rates, tolls and charges that increases the annual operating revenues of the utility by more than 1% to send a notice of the increase to its customers. The Public Utilities Commission must prepare the notice in consultation with the utility. If the utility seeks a rate increase greater than what was stated in the notice after the notice was sent, the utility must notify the commission. If the utility demonstrates good cause, the commission may allow the utility to seek the increase greater than what was stated in the notice subject to reasonable conditions established by the commission, which may include requiring the utility to send a new notice to its customers describing the revised proposed increase.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 496 An Act to Address Battery Storage System Decommissioning and Clarify Solar Energy Development Decommissioning

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 215 prohibits a person from constructing, causing to be constructed, or operating a battery storage system development with a capacity of two megawatts or more without first obtaining approval of a decommissioning plan from an environmental permitting entity. It establishes the requirements for a decommissioning plan, including the removal of the battery storage system development components, recycling of the waste components that are recyclable and regrading and revegetation of all earth disturbed during construction and decommissioning. The plan must include demonstration of current and future financial capacity to fully fund decommissioning under the plan.

The law clarifies the existing solar energy development decommissioning law by providing that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission are authorized, but not required, to adopt rules to implement the solar decommissioning requirements. It also adds language to clarify the applicability of the solar energy development decommissioning requirements.

LD 509 An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Direct Expiring Net Energy Billing Credits to Provide Low-income Assistance

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 230 directs the Public Utilities Commission to require transmission and distribution utilities with net energy billing arrangements to remit the value of unused and expired net energy billing credits to the commission to be used for the benefit of individuals receiving low income assistance.

LD 519 Resolve, to Evaluate a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 32 requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to assess the feasibility of establishing a vehicle-to-grid pilot project operated at the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District demonstrating the use of electric school buses to store energy from the electric grid during times of low demand and discharge the stored energy to the grid during times of high demand. The trust is required to submit an assessment of the pilot project to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, including a recommendation as to whether or not a pilot project would be feasible and, if the trust recommends implementing a pilot project, a proposed project design and budget.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 542 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Investigate Time-of-use Rates

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 79 directs the Public Utilities Commission to investigate the feasibility of requiring standard-offer service to include a time-of-use rate option, including whether the commission recommends the use of a pilot program to assess this option and requiring all investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to offer a time-of-use rate for the delivery of electricity for all customer classes that would complement a time-of-use supply rate. The commission is required to submit a report, by January 15, 2024, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes a summary of the commission's investigation along with any findings and recommendations related to the report. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 640 An Act to Update the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 3 amends the charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to reflect position changes, remove obsolete language, clarify language regarding board members, update a statutory reference and make other changes to reflect the current operations of the authority.

LD 698 An Act to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Renewably Sourced Gas

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 222 requires the Public Utilities Commission to monitor proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and intervene and participate in those proceedings related to interstate natural gas transmission capacity in New England and the Northeast that could affect natural gas prices in the State if the commission believes that intervention and participation will best represent the interests of the State's electric and gas ratepayers. If the commission has intervened and participated in a proceeding, the commission must by December 31st of that year, submit a report summarizing its participation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters.

The law defines "renewably sourced gas" and provides that a gas utility may petition the commission to utilize renewably sourced gas. The commission may authorize the use of such gas upon a finding that the utility's proposed use is safe and reliable, that its use can be provided to customers at a just and reasonable rate and that it may reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set forth in statute.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

The law repeals the section of law that prohibits the commission from executing a contract for physical energy storage after June 1, 2017 and a contract for energy cost reduction after December 31, 2020. It requires the commission to issue a request for information after consultation with the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust regarding reasonable opportunities for the commission to explore and consider engaging in the execution of an energy cost reduction contract or a physical energy storage contract. The commission's request for information must also seek identification of existing and near-term replacement energy sources for natural gas in commercial and industrial uses, including when the replacement energy sources are expected to be available, the cost of those replacement energy sources and the steps needed to develop a cost-effective and reliable supply of such replacement energy sources. The commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024 that includes a summary of the responses the commission received from its request for information, any actions taken by the commission as a result of the information received and any recommendations.

LD 923 An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 121 requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually publish on its publicly accessible website current residential transmission and distribution utility rates and the standard-offer supply rates.

The law also requires the commission to determine the method necessary to convey to residential ratepayers of a transmission and distribution utility the anticipated effects of all deferred costs approved by the commission on residential transmission and distribution utility rates and to publish this information on the commission's publicly accessible website by November 1, 2023. The commission must provide this information along with any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, which may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 924 Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 66 provides that the Legislature approves the construction of a 1,200-megawatt capacity, 345-kilovolt transmission line and associated interconnection facilities pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C. The resolve specifies that the Legislature does not, through the passage of the resolve, provide approval for the transmission line to cross or utilize designated public lands.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 925 An Act to Allow the Baileyville Utilities District to Disconnect Water Service for a Customer's Failure to Pay for Sewer Service Provided by the Town of Baileyville

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 6 amends the charter for the Baileyville Utilities District to allow the district to disconnect water service for a customer if that same customer fails to pay for sewer service that is provided by the Town of Baileyville if the disconnection is in accordance with procedures established by applicable laws or rules and terms and conditions approved by the Public Utilities Commission. The disconnection is allowed only if the customer whose water service is subject to a disconnection is the same customer who has not paid for sewer service and the water and sewer services are provided to the same location.

LD 952 Resolve, to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 67 directs the Governor's Energy Office to issue a request for proposals to hire a third-party consultant to conduct a two-part study for the design of a distribution system operator in the State. The distribution system operator must be designed to oversee integrated system planning for all electric grids in the State, including coordinating energy planning efforts across state agencies; operate all electric grids in the State to ensure optimum operations, efficiency, equity, reliability and customer service; administer an open and transparent market for distributed energy resources; and facilitate the achievement of the State's greenhouse gas reduction obligations and climate policies. In the consultant's initial study, the consultant must evaluate whether a distribution system operator could be designed to achieve a demonstrable reduction in electricity costs for customers, improved electric system reliability and performance in the State, accelerated achievement of the State's climate goals and growth of distributed energy resources. If the consultant's initial study finds that a distribution system operator could be designed to achieve the required objectives and the office agrees with the consultant's conclusion, the office must authorize the consultant to conduct the second part of the study to create a design proposal.

If the office does not authorize the consultant to conduct the second part of the study, the office must present the initial study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters within 60 days of the completion of the consultant's initial study.

If the office authorizes the second part of the study to create a design proposal, upon its completion, the office is required to prepare an analysis based on the consultant's design proposal and provide it to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by January 1, 2025.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 987 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Proceeding to Explore Strategies to Procure Standard-offer Service in a Manner that Promotes the Stability of Residential Standard-offer Rates

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 39 directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding to develop a procurement strategy and consider other measures that could be used to increase rate stability for residential customers that receive standard-offer service. In the proceeding, the commission must consider the use of varied contract lengths and terms to reduce price volatility from year to year.

LD 1065 An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 182 amends the law governing the Telecommunications Relay Services Council to reduce the number of members appointed by the Governor from 8 to 6 by removing the member of a telephone association and the member representing a company that provides telecommunications relay services. It adds a member from the Maine Connectivity Authority appointed by the president of the authority. It also directs the council to hire a part-time executive director and establishes the duties of the executive director.

LD 1101 An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 259 directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a home energy scoring system for residential buildings for the purposes of evaluating a building's energy efficiency. The trust must establish a process by which a recipient of a home energy score may voluntarily report the score to the trust and establish and maintain a database of home energy scores.

LD 1223 An Act to Clarify Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 313 provides that a shared-use pole owner may not require a municipality, as a condition of the municipality's attachment to the pole, to purchase and maintain a general liability insurance policy with a limit in excess of \$5,000,000 per occurrence. It clarifies that the provision of the Maine Tort Claims Act relating to insurance coverage applies to the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

municipality's liability limits and areas of liability if the municipality purchases such coverage. The law includes a repeal date of October 1, 2028.

LD 1408 An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 353 does the following.

1. It requires the Bureau of Forestry to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters a copy of any report related to wood processing that the bureau submits to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry management matters.
2. It amends the definition of net generating capacity for the purposes of the combined heat and power program to exclude energy provided behind the meter to facilities adjacent to an electric generating facility.
3. It increases the allowable net generating capacity of a combined heat and power program participant to no more than 15 megawatts and increases the total net generating capacity for all combined heat and power program participants to no more than 30 megawatts.
4. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate combined heat and power projects on a technology-specific basis when determining whether a project is highly efficient.
5. It limits the combined heat and power program to contracts for only energy instead of energy, capacity resources and renewable energy credits.
6. It establishes criteria to allow a combined heat and power program participant located in the service territory of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility to provide energy to an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility pursuant to a long-term contract under the program.

LD 1427 An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Provide Financial Assistance to Low-income Households in Emergency Situations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 201 allows the Public Utilities Commission, as part of a low-income assistance program, to provide financial assistance to low-income households in emergency situations as determined by the commission in a proceeding or by rule. It also requires the commission to identify the sources of low-income assistance program funds in its annual report to

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities regarding low-income assistance programs.

LD 1456 Resolve, to Study the Effect of Current Laws and Rules on the Expansion of Broadband

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 81 directs the Public Utilities Commission to study current pole attachment laws and rules and the effect of those laws and rules on municipal broadband expansion. The study must include a review of each stage of the pole make-ready process, an estimate of the number of utility poles statewide that could accommodate municipal facility attachments without the need to replace the pole, an assessment of the commission's enforcement practices and related laws applicable to utility poles and a review of the commission's current educational resources related to pole attachments and the effectiveness of those resources. The law requires the commission to submit an initial report of the study by February 15, 2024 and a final report by December 1, 2024 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters.

LD 1479 Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Liquefied Propane Gas Systems and the So-called Dig Safe Law

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 47 directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to discuss matters related to the underground facility damage prevention system, including options that may be available to the commission to ensure the safety measures established by the system are maintained while reducing administrative requirements for membership and participation in the system that are applicable to liquefied propane gas distribution systems that have an underground tank or pipe. The resolve specifies the membership of the stakeholder group and requires the commission to submit a report, by December 6, 2023, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology summarizing the stakeholder discussions including any recommended legislation.

LD 1591 An Act to Promote Economic Reuse of Contaminated Land Through Clean Energy Development

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 321 directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a competitive solicitation for energy and renewable energy credits equal to 5% of the retail electricity sales in the State for the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 plus any amount contracted for under previous procurements that the commission determines are unfulfilled. Projects eligible to be selected for contracts are Class IA resources that begin commercial operation on or after

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

September 19, 2023 and for which a system impact study has been filed. A project pairing eligible Class IA resources with an energy storage system is also eligible to be selected for a contract. In conducting a solicitation and selecting projects for contracts, the commission must consider the expected effect of eligible Class IA resources on other renewable resources due to congestion and curtailment, select only those eligible Class IA resources or combined projects for contracts that will benefit ratepayers and give a primary preference to those eligible Class IA resources or combined projects that are located on contaminated lands and secondary preference to eligible Class IA resources or combined projects that minimize use of farmland that is not contaminated land and minimize use of forested land. The commission must use procured renewable energy credits to offset a standard-offer service provider's renewable resource portfolio requirements.

The law also requires the Governor's Energy Office, in consultation with the commission, to review the status and impacts of the implementation of the State's renewable resources portfolio requirements and submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The first report must be submitted by March 31, 2024 and subsequent reports every three years thereafter.

LD 1654 An Act to Extend the Time for Certain Public Utilities Commission Proceedings

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 168 extends the time period during which the Public Utilities Commission may make determinations on rate increases, affiliate transactions, reorganizations and certificates of public convenience and necessity. It allows for an extension of a period of suspension of the operation of a schedule of a public utility under certain circumstances. It extends the period of approval for a petition for a proposed transmission line from nine to 12 months.

LD 1655 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Consumer-owned Water Utilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 325 does the following.

1. It increases the gross annual revenues thresholds that trigger audits for qualified small water utilities and permits the Public Utilities Commission, for good cause shown, to waive the requirements for an annual review or audit for qualified small water utilities.
2. It exempts consumer-owned water utilities from certain requirements, including authorization by the commission for the issuance of stocks, bonds and notes.
3. It removes the requirement that consumer-owned water utilities publish notices of public hearings and rate changes in a newspaper and instead provides the commission with the authority to prescribe the manner in which notice is provided to customers of these utilities.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

4. It increases the total annual revenues thresholds that classify what qualifies as a small, medium and large consumer-owned water utility.
5. It creates an expedited rate adjustment mechanism for consumer-owned water utilities to allow for up to a 1.5% increase in the current total annual revenue as long as proper notice is provided.
6. It creates a process for two or more consumer-owned water utilities to petition the commission to consolidate into a single utility. The commission must report annually on consolidation activities to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters and include in that report draft charter language that the committee may report out to create the new consolidated utility.

LD 1692 An Act to Create the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 15 establishes the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District, pending voter referendum.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 15 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 26, 2023.

LD 1693 An Act to Amend the Kennebunk Sewer District Charter

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 7 amends the charter of the Kennebunk Sewer District to update the description of the district's territorial limits.

LD 1724 An Act to Enact the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 328 does the following.

1. It enacts the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act which includes provisions that do the following.
 - A. It allows the Governor's Energy Office to petition the Public Utilities Commission to procure energy from renewable resources and allows the commission to initiate a competitive solicitation to approve one or more contracts for energy from renewable resources.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

- B. It directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to develop a 3-year beneficial electrification plan as a part of its triennial plan.
 - C. It requires, to the extent possible through readily available information, the office, the commission and the trust to monitor beneficial electrification activities, trends and costs and benefits to ratepayers.
 - D. It requires the commission, the office and the trust to include information on beneficial electrification activities in each entity's annual report to the Legislature.
2. It amends the definition of "beneficial electrification" in existing law to include a process.
 3. It directs the trust to plan and implement programs to advance the policy of beneficial electrification.
 4. It directs the commission to conduct a study of how to cost-effectively provide consumer financing of beneficial electrification products including products for energy efficiency, home or business energy storage, electric vehicle charging equipment and other distributed energy products. The commission must submit a report on the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 5, 2024.

LD 1828 An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 186 requires a public safety answering point to provide notice to the Emergency Services Communication Bureau prior to discontinuing service to a municipality. It specifies that the bureau must find reasonable grounds to authorize a public safety answering point to provide less than one year's notice of its discontinuation of service and provides that a violation of the notice requirement is a civil violation for which a fine of up to \$50 per day may be adjudged. The law specifies that the bureau may establish additional public safety answering points regardless of the limitation on the number of public safety answering points in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2926, subsection 2-A if the bureau determines that a public safety answering point is necessary to ensure public safety and access to E-9-1-1 services. The law also requires the bureau to conduct a study assessing whether public safety answering points can be more efficiently managed to ensure stability of the system. The Public Utilities Commission must provide a report on the results of the study by February 1, 2024 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters.

Public Law 2023, chapter 186 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2023.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 1850 An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 374 does the following.

1. It modifies the state goal for energy storage system development to at least 300 megawatts of installed capacity by December 31, 2025 and at least 400 megawatts by December 31, 2030. It provides that, beginning January 1, 2024 and every 2 years thereafter, the Governor's Energy Office may reevaluate and increase the state goal.
2. It directs the office, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate designs for and recommend a program to procure commercially available utility-scale energy storage systems connected to the transmission and distribution systems, including but not limited to through the use of an index storage credit mechanism. It directs the commission to evaluate whether the program recommended by the office is reasonably likely to achieve the certain objectives. Upon finding the proposed program reasonably likely to achieve those objectives, the commission must take steps to implement the program in accordance with any applicable authority the commission may have and the commission may submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters recommendations for any changes to law needed to allow the commission to fully implement the program. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to energy storage to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.
3. It requires the office to study long-duration energy storage and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology no later than February 1, 2024. The report must include a discussion of technology options for long-duration energy storage, an overview of known cost and performance characteristics, a discussion of scenarios for the use of long-duration energy storage and consideration of whether and under what conditions the use of long-duration energy storage would be cost-effective for ratepayers in the state.
4. It directs the commission to solicit stakeholder input on whether an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility may own, have a financial interest in or otherwise control energy storage systems in order to perform its obligations as a transmission and distribution utility in an effective, prudent and efficient manner. The commission is required to submit a report containing any recommendations based on its activities to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology no later than February 15, 2024.

LD 1887 An Act to Clarify the Review and Procurement Process for Nonwires Alternatives

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 355 makes the following changes to the laws governing electric transmission lines and projects and nonwires alternatives.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

1. It repeals the definition of "nontransmission alternative" and incorporates aspects of the definition of "nontransmission alternative" into the definition of "nonwires alternative." It includes energy storage as a nonwires alternative in the definition of "nonwires alternative."
2. It amends the existing definition of "transmission project" and adds a definition of "subtransmission project."
3. It prohibits a person from constructing a subtransmission project without approval from the Public Utilities Commission.
4. It allows an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility or the Office of the Public Advocate to petition commission to resolve a dispute between the nonwires alternative coordinator and the utility regarding nonwires alternatives to proposed small transmission projects and distribution projects.
5. It provides that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility may request a protective order if necessary to protect the confidentiality of customer data or critical energy infrastructure information provided to the Public Advocate or the Efficiency Maine Trust to allow the nonwires alternative coordinator to carry out certain investigation and analysis.
6. It provides that when the commission determines a nonwires alternative is appropriate in certain cases involving the review of transmission and distribution projects, the nonwires alternative must be prudently procured.
7. It removes language that provides that when an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility voluntarily agrees to a nonwires alternative on the grid side of the meter regarding certain small transmission and distribution projects, the utility must determine the entity to deliver the nonwires alternative.

LD 1895 An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 481 does the following.

1. It requires an agreement for construction work in connection with the construction or alteration of an offshore wind terminal that is a public work to support an offshore wind power project to comply with the requirements applicable to either a project labor agreement or community and workforce enhancement standards. It provides that if an offshore wind power project involves a public-private partnership that includes the lease of an offshore wind terminal owned or operated by the State, the department, authority or other agency responsible for granting the lease must require agreements that comply with the requirements applicable to either a project labor agreement or community and workforce enhancement standards as a condition of the lease for all on-site construction and fabrication of materials for the offshore wind power project.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

2. It makes the following changes to the Maine Wind Energy Act.
 - A. It updates the State's goal for wind energy development in proximate federal waters.
 - B. It makes changes to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium, including expanding the membership of the advisory board, and to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund, including adding payments from offshore wind power projects to the sources of money that come into the fund.
 - C. It establishes the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program to further the development and use of offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The program is administered by the Governor's Energy Office in collaboration with the Public Utilities Commission.
 - D. It directs the Governor's Energy Office to establish a schedule for competitive solicitations and prepare requests for proposals for the development and construction of offshore wind power projects to meet the goals of the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program. Each solicitation must seek proposals for not less than approximately 600 megawatts of nameplate capacity or projects of sufficient size to enable cost-competitive commercial-scale development. A solicitation must specify bidder criteria, including the submission of plans addressing stakeholder engagement; economic and community benefits; diversity, equity and inclusion in employment and contracting for the project; fisheries research, monitoring and mitigation; and environmental and wildlife research, monitoring, mitigation and conservation. The criteria must also require the submission of a fishing communities investment plan and an agreement by the responsible entity, if it is approved for a contract, to pay an amount per megawatt of capacity to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund and an agreement to provide financial and technical assistance necessary to implement the required plans. It also establishes community and workforce enhancement standards as requirements and standards that contractors, subcontractors and individuals performing construction work on offshore wind power projects must meet.
 - E. It requires the commission to review the office's request for proposals and, upon finding that the request for proposals is reasonably likely to attract competitive bids, issue the request for proposals. The commission is required to select projects that result in contracts that are cost-effective for electric ratepayers over the term of the contract, taking into consideration potential quantitative and qualitative economic, environmental and other benefits to ratepayers. The commission must give priority to projects that meet certain criteria.
 - F. It authorizes the commission to conduct one or more competitive solicitations for proposals for the development and construction of offshore wind energy transmission projects or other electric infrastructure projects to facilitate offshore wind energy development.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

3. It establishes a visual impact standard to evaluate the effect of the development of an offshore wind terminal.
4. It requires the Office of Tax Policy in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources and the Governor's Energy Office, to develop the Fishing Community Tax Incentive Program to provide tax credits to applicants for qualified investments in offshore wind power projects. The Office of Tax Policy is required to publicize and seek public comment on the proposed program before submitting it, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024.

LD 1933 An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 11 increases the debt limit of the Limerick Water District from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 11 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2023.

LD 1943 An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy Development in Northern Maine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 371 directs the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request for proposals for the development and construction of renewable energy generation projects in northern Maine to maximize the use of the transmission line proposal selected in accordance with the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program. The law provides that the commission must conduct the request for proposals and approval of contracts, if practicable, on a schedule to allow selected projects to seek inclusion in the Third Maine Resource Integration Study and the subsequent cluster system impact study.

LD 1950 An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 8 increases the total amount of debt the Stonington Water Company may incur from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 8 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 13, 2023.

LD 1971 Resolve, to Ensure that Eligible Customers Receive Payments from the Energy Rate Relief Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 104 ensures that an eligible customer of an electric utility receives a payment from the Energy Rate Relief Fund under Resolve 2021, chapter 168 even if that customer did not receive a February 2022 invoice from that electric utility.

Resolve 2023, chapter 104 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective July 26, 2023.

LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 411 does the following.

1. It establishes the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program to obtain and provide federal funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in the State.
2. It limits participation in the kilowatt hour credit and tariff rate net energy billing programs for distributed generation resources with a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to one megawatt and less than or equal to two megawatts to those resources that, on or before December 31, 2024, reach commercial operation by the date specified in the net energy billing agreement or by the date specified with an allowable modification to that agreement.
3. After December 31, 2023, it limits participation in the tariff rate net energy billing program to distributed generation resources that are collocated with all of the distributed generation resource's net energy billing customers and those customers are subscribed to 100% of the facility's output. The limitation does not apply to a distributed generation resource with a net energy billing agreement that was executed on or before December 31, 2023.
4. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually determine the net energy billing costs and the benefits of distributed generation under net energy billing programs for the previous year and to allocate to each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility its pro rata share of net energy billing costs. The allocation must be based on each utility's total retail kilowatt-hour energy sales to ratepayers that pay net energy billing costs.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

5. It establishes parameters for a competitive solicitation and procurement by the commission that may procure energy or renewable energy credits from distributed generation resources that have met or are reasonably likely to meet certain net energy billing eligibility criteria as determined by the commission or, for distributed generation resources that have a nameplate capacity of at least one megawatt and not more than two megawatts, are a member of a cluster study conducted by a transmission and distribution utility or are likely to receive required transmission approval from the New England independent system operator on or before April 30, 2024. If the commission determines that a procurement of energy or renewable energy credits is in the public interest, the commission must select distributed generation resources for contracts. Distributed generation resources that are awarded contracts as a result of the competitive solicitation may not participate in net energy billing and must terminate any net energy billing arrangements or agreements.
6. It directs the commission to conduct one or more proceedings to examine and evaluate designs for programs to reduce net energy billing costs in which a distributed generation resource may elect to participate, including, but not limited to, designs that include long-term financial mechanisms and buy-down arrangements. If the commission finds the implementation of a program to be in the public interest, the commission must establish and implement the program. By March 31, 2024, the commission must provide a report of its activities regarding these programs to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

LD 2012 An Act to Prohibit Early Termination Fees for Residential Electric Generation Service Contracts

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2023, chapter 375 prohibits a competitive electricity provider from entering into or renewing a contract for generation service that imposes an early termination fee.

LD 2013 An Act to Address Abandoned Capital Credits Held by Rural Electrification Cooperatives

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2023, chapter 483 provides that a deposit or refund owed to a member of a rural electrification cooperative that is unclaimed by the member one year after the deposit or refund becomes payable must be used to provide assistance to low income households.