

STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

June 2024

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Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

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	LD 1932	An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills	PUBLIC 514

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	LD 683	An Act to Reduce Electricity Rates	Majority (ONTP) Report
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Energy Efficiency

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Renewable Resources

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	LD 1830	An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals	ONTP

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	LD 2234	An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database	PUBLIC 570

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	LD 2254	An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District	PUBLIC 596

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Not Enacted	LD 1111	An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction	Majority (ONTP) Report
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Water/Sewer/Sanitary Charters

Enacted	LD 2104	An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District	P & S 22
	LD 2242	An Act to Set a Debt Limit for the Anson and Madison Water District	P & S 21
	LD 2270	An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District	P & S 23

DIGEST OF BILLS
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Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
EUT	122	An Act to Update the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program and to Establish a Pilot Program to Support the Uptake of Medium Duty and Heavy Duty Zero-emission Vehicles	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/23/2024	Enacted	PL	535	
EUT	240	Resolve, to Direct the Maine Connectivity Authority to Develop Proposed Legislation to Increase Broadband Internet Access	OTP-AM	2/29/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	155	
EUT	297	An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits	ONTP	1/10/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	412	An Act to Fully Engage the Efficiency Maine Trust in Mitigating Climate Change by Creating Electrification Programs	ONTP	1/10/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	417	An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing	ONTP	1/26/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	589	An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/29/2024	Enacted	PL	553	
EUT	683	An Act to Reduce Electricity Rates	ONTP/OTP-AM	2/15/2024	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
EUT	699	An Act to Reduce Future Energy Costs	ONTP	1/4/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			

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Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
EUT	1111	An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction	ONTP/OTP-AM	2/5/2024	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
EUT	1465	An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing	ONTP/OTP-AM	2/15/2024	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
EUT	1549	An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State	OTP-AM/ONTP	6/6/2023				
EUT	1606	Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs	OTP-AM/ONTP	3/11/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	150	
EUT	1775	An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/29/2024	Enacted	PL	554	
EUT	1830	An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals	ONTP	11/8/2023	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	1889	An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System	ONTP	1/26/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	1932	An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills	OTP-AM/ONTP/OTP-AM	1/29/2024	Enacted	PL	514	
EUT	1962	Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/29/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	145	
EUT	1963	An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	4/3/2024	Enacted	PL	660	
EUT	1967	An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements	OTP-AM/ONTP	1/8/2024	Enacted	PL	502	

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Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
EUT	2016	An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group	ONTP	1/12/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	2067	An Act to Continue the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers	OTP-AM	2/22/2024	Emergency Enacted	PL	534	
EUT	2077	Resolve, to Study the Role of Natural Gas in an Equitable Clean Energy Transition for Maine	OTP-AM/ONTP	3/29/2024				
EUT	2087	An Act to Protect Property Owners by Making Certain Changes to the Laws Governing the Use of Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities	OTP-AM	4/1/2024	Emergency Enacted	PL	644	
EUT	2099	An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/15/2024	Enacted	PL	533	
EUT	2104	An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District	OTP-AM	3/21/2024	Enacted	P&S	22	
EUT	2127	An Act to Increase the Number of Commissioners on the Public Utilities Commission	ONTP	1/30/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	2132	An Act to Clarify the Right to Appeal Certain Public Utilities Commission Decisions	ONTP/OTP-AM	3/21/2024	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
EUT	2163	An Act to Require Consumer Consent for Certain Generation Service Contract Renewals	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	4/1/2024	Enacted	PL	636	
EUT	2172	An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking	OTP-AM/ONTP	3/22/2024	Accepted Report B (ONTP)			
EUT	2193	An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Wireless Communications by Allowing the Public Utilities Commission to Designate Eligible Telecommunications Carriers	OTP-AM	3/7/2024	Enacted	PL	568	

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Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
EUT	2205	Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State	OTP-AM	4/1/2024	Held by Governor			
EUT	2206	An Act Regarding Incentives for Heat Pumps and Other Weatherization Products and Services	ONTP	3/4/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
EUT	2234	An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database	OTP	3/11/2024	Enacted	PL	570	
EUT	2242	An Act to Set a Debt Limit for the Anson and Madison Water District	OTP-AM	3/21/2024	Emergency Enacted	P&S	21	
EUT	2245	An Act to Clarify the Definition of "Underground Facility" and Reduce Administrative Burdens Under the So-called Dig Safe Law	OTP	3/15/2024	Enacted	PL	572	
EUT	2254	An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District	OTP-AM	3/25/2024	Emergency Enacted	PL	596	
EUT	2270	An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District	OTP-AM	4/2/2024	Emergency Enacted	P&S	23	
EUT	2278	An Act to Require Public Safety Answering Point and Dispatch Center Cost Reporting and to Direct the Formation of a Staffing and Recruiting Stakeholder Group	OTP		Enacted	PL	609	

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LD 122 An Act to Update the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program and to Establish a Pilot Program to Support the Uptake of Medium Duty and Heavy Duty Zero-emission Vehicles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 535 does the following.

1. It replaces the term “rebate” in the electric vehicle rebate program with the term “incentive”.
2. It increases the maximum retail price of an electric vehicle that may qualify for the electric vehicle incentive program from \$50,000 to \$55,000 and clarifies that, to qualify for an incentive, the requirement that the purchase or lease be from an in-state entity only applies to purchases or leases from licensed automobile dealers and authorized licensees of the original equipment manufacturer.
3. It allows the Efficiency Maine Trust to require that a recipient of an incentive under the electric vehicle incentive program maintain a Maine registration for 36 months to retain the full amount of the incentive instead of requiring ownership for 36 months.
4. It clarifies that the Efficiency Maine Trust must establish incentive amounts that it determines will most effectively increase the use of eligible electric vehicles in this State to advance the State's carbon reduction targets.
5. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, to the extent that funds allow, to establish a pilot program to provide incentives for the purchase or lease of medium duty and heavy duty vehicles in commercial applications that are electric vehicles and establishes eligibility requirements for participants in the pilot program.
6. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters on the activities and findings of the program by December 31, 2026.

LD 240 Resolve, to Direct the Maine Connectivity Authority to Develop Proposed Legislation to Increase Broadband Internet Access

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 155 directs the Maine Connectivity Authority to develop proposed legislation to improve the ability of tenants in multiple dwelling units in the State to receive broadband Internet service and benefit from increased competition among Internet service providers. The authority must submit a written summary of its activities and proposed legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters by January 30, 2025.

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LD 589 An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 553 does the following.

1. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review of available grid-enhancing technology that may be implemented by large investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report describing the grid-enhancing technology identified in the review. The report may be used by the commission in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding.
2. It defines “beneficial load” for the purposes of the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act.
3. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, as a part of its development of a three-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy, to consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load. The trust must also integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the Governor's Energy Office as appropriate.
4. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide, by February 1, 2025, a written update on its beneficial electrification planning as well as any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

LD 1606 Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 150 directs the Department of Education’s office of innovation to conduct a study and develop guidance, in coordination with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor’s Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust, to assist public elementary and secondary schools in the State with achieving energy efficiency and maximizing the use of clean energy. The guidance must address how the programs and contracting options reviewed as a part of the study may be effectively accessed and used by public elementary and secondary schools in the State and incorporate the best practices and standards. No later than January 31, 2025, the Department of Education’s office of innovation must provide a report of its activities, as well as guidance for public elementary and secondary schools in the State for achieving energy efficiency, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters and education matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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Resolve 2023, chapter 150 also requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor’s Energy Office, the Efficiency Maine Trust, relevant state agencies and representatives from school leadership, including superintendents, business officers and facilities managers, to develop contracting guidance for public elementary and secondary schools to assist the schools with saving money through energy efficiency, clean energy and clean transportation projects. No later than January 31, 2025, the Department of Education must provide a report, including draft guidance, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters and education matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

LD 1775 An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 554 requires the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Governor’s Energy Office and the Department of Environmental Protection, to develop and oversee a pilot program designed to select a proposal for the development and operation of a clean hydrogen facility. To be selected for participation in the program, the facility must be located in the State, meet requirements for a 100% clean hydrogen production tax credit under the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and IRS production tax credit regulations, have a peak electricity demand of no more than 20 megawatts and meet other requirements. After selecting one facility for participation in the program, the commission is required to direct the transmission and distribution utility in whose territory the facility is located to negotiate with that facility for a special contract that may be approved by the commission. A facility selected for the program must meet specified wage requirements and meet clean hydrogen production volumes identified in the proposal it submits for participation in the program.

LD 1932 An Act to Require Broadband Internet Access Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 514 requires a provider of broadband Internet access service to provide a customer with a pro rata credit or rebate for the days of the monthly billing period after the cancellation of broadband Internet access service if that customer requests cancellation of service three or more working days before the end of the monthly billing period. It also requires a broadband Internet access service provider to provide a customer, upon the customer’s request, with a pro rata credit or rebate if the customer’s broadband Internet access service is interrupted for six or more consecutive hours in a single billing period. A customer is not eligible to receive a pro rata credit or rebate for an interruption in broadband Internet access service if the interruption was caused by an act beyond the reasonable control of the provider. Broadband Internet access service providers must include on each customer bill a notice of the customer’s right to receive a pro rata credit or rebate for a cancellation of service or an interruption in service.

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LD 1962 Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 145 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility terminations and disconnections of service to residential customers for unpaid utility bills. The rules must prohibit the termination or disconnection of electric and gas utility service during extreme weather or temperature conditions, including extreme heat or humidity, between April 16th and November 14th and establish a threshold dollar amount greater than \$50 owed by a customer who does not pay or make a payment arrangement on an undisputed overdue utility bill at or above which the utility may terminate or disconnect utility service. The rules must also prohibit a transmission and distribution utility from charging restoration or reconnection fees or late fees or requiring a security deposit in connection with the restoration of service if the customer is a low-income customer.

LD 1963 An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 660 does the following.

1. It provides that a transmission line or lines developed under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2 and proposed within the unorganized or deorganized areas of the State are reviewed and permits are issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.
2. It defines an “employer and employee harmony agreement” and provides that the Public Utilities Commission must give preference to proposals for the development and operation of a transmission line or lines or renewable generation projects under Title 35-A, section 3210-I, that maximize federal tax credits by including agreements described in 29 United States Code, Section 158(f) and committing to entering into an employer and employee harmony agreement with a labor organization seeking to represent workers on those projects.
3. In administering the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program, it directs the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Governor’s Energy Office, to seek to partner with other states, governmental entities or utilities within New England.
4. It provides that the Public Utilities Commission’s request for proposals under Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2 must be for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines necessary to connect at least 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy resources located in northern Maine, instead of for the development and construction of a 345-kilovolt double circuit generation connection line, or, in the commission’s discretion, a transmission line or lines of greater capacity.

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5. It allows the Public Utilities Commission to consider, under Title 35-A, section 3210-I, proposals for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines and renewable energy generation projects that include mechanisms to mitigate and allocate risks associated with development and operation of those projects.
6. It provides that the bidder that submits a proposal selected by the Public Utilities Commission for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines, upon the issuance by the commission of a certificate of public convenience and necessity, is considered a transmission and distribution utility, except that the commission may limit the rights of the utility to the extent necessary to protect ratepayers from financial risks.
7. It updates dates and terminology within Title 35-A, section 3210-I.
8. It provides that a term sheet awarded by the Public Utilities Commission to a bidder for a project pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program must be considered sufficient title, right or interest for a permitting agency to accept and begin processing the application for the project. It also requires the commission, in an order awarding a term sheet to a bidder selected for the development of a transmission line or lines, to provide an explanation of the commission's considerations and findings regarding the costs and benefits associated with the development and construction of the transmission line or lines.
9. It requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure coordinated public notification and opportunities for public participation, including explanation of all public participation procedures, in connection with regulatory approvals and permitting under Title 35-A and Title 38 for a transmission line or lines and renewable energy generation projects under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program.
10. It provides that a judicial appeal of final action by the Board of Environmental Protection or the Commissioner of Environmental Protection regarding an application for a transmission line or lines developed pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2, must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.
11. It requires the Board of Environmental Protection or the Department of Environmental Protection, as applicable, to hold a hearing in accordance with Title 38, section 486-A, and prohibits the issuance of an order without a hearing in connection with an application for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines.
12. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to require an applicant for a permit under the site location of development laws for the development and construction of a transmission line or lines to demonstrate to the department that the applicant conducted one or more public meetings regarding the transmission line or lines prior to the submission of its application.

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LD 1967 An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 502 amends the State’s laws governing municipal cable television systems ordinances as follows.

1. It adds definitions for “facility support transmission equipment”; “public, educational and governmental facility equipment”; “public, educational and governmental programming”; and “video service provider”.
2. It amends those laws to clarify the regulation under those laws of video service providers, which includes cable system operators.
3. It repeals the law requiring a cable system operator to offer subscribers the option of purchasing access to cable channels or programs on cable channels individually.
4. It provides that all costs associated with public, educational and governmental facility equipment shown by the franchising municipality to be reasonably necessary for the operation of public, educational and governmental access channels within a franchising municipality, including technology upgrade costs for signal quality improvement, are the responsibility of the video service provider that holds the franchise agreement. The video service provider may not offset such costs through the payment of required franchise fees, but may recover the costs through other means as permitted by law.
5. It requires new facility support transmission equipment installed to be at the current resolution technology afforded to broadcasting stations.
6. It removes language authorizing municipalities to enter into exclusive franchise agreements or contracts with a video service provider.
7. It prohibits video service providers from providing services within a municipality unless the provider has entered into a franchise agreement or contract with that municipality.
8. It prohibits a video service provider from establishing mandatory preconditions to be met by potential subscribers for the construction of a line extension on a municipal public right-of-way.
9. It establishes various requirements for the provisions of any new, renewed or amended franchise agreements between a municipality and a video service provider regarding franchise fees, including a requirement that video service providers pay a franchise fee on a quarterly basis to each municipality with which it has a fee requirement.
10. It requires a video service provider to carry public, educational and governmental access channels on the provider’s basic cable or video service offerings, tiers or applications.

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11. It provides that a violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 3008 is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.
12. It establishes dispute resolution options for disputes that arise between a franchising municipality and a video service provider over their respective obligations under a franchise contract or agreement.
13. It clarifies that the consumer protection provisions in law currently available to consumers with respect to cable television service apply to the services provided by video service providers.

LD 2067 An Act to Continue the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 534 extends the repeal date for the arrearage management program from September 30, 2024 to September 30, 2028. It also changes the requirements for the Public Utilities Commission's report on the effectiveness of the arrearage management program and changes the reporting date to no later than January 28, 2028.

Public Law 2023, chapter 534 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 14, 2024.

LD 2087 An Act to Protect Property Owners by Making Certain Changes to the Laws Governing the Use of Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 644 does the following.

1. It requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to adopt rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-C to provide, in the case of a high-impact electric transmission line crossing or utilizing a rail trail or recreational corridor or land of similar configuration designated under Title 12, chapter 202-A, criteria for determining that the high-impact transmission line would not cause the land to be reduced or the uses of the land to be substantially altered.
1. It defines the term “service land” and excepts those lands from the provision of law that considers a high-impact electric transmission line crossing or utilizing public lands a substantial alteration.
2. It defines a “high-impact transmission line” and prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from approving a transmission and distribution utility’s taking of a location for a high-impact electric transmission line by eminent domain if the location is on a lot or parcel of real property that is 200 contiguous acres or less and the transmission and distribution utility seeks to take

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less than the entire property, unless the transmission and distribution utility demonstrates that, in its negotiations with the owner of the property for a voluntary acquisition of the location, it made both an offer for the entire property and an offer for just the location.

3. It clarifies the provisions of law that apply to the determination of damages for property taken by eminent domain for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a transmission line designed to carry voltages of 5,000 volts or more and of necessary appurtenances.
4. If a location approved by the commission for a taking by eminent domain for a high-impact electric transmission line is on a lot or parcel of real property that is 200 contiguous acres or less and the transmission and distribution utility seeks to take less than the entire property, it requires the county commissioners' estimate of damages to include two estimates, one for the entire property in fee simple absolute and one for the portion of the property approved for a taking. The owner of the property has the option to require the transmission and distribution utility to take the entire property and, if the owner elects to require the transmission and distribution utility to take the entire property, the commission must approve the taking of the entire property.
5. It requires the commission to adopt rules regarding notice and educational materials that must be sent by certified mail to an owner of real property whose property may be taken by eminent domain for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a high-impact electric transmission line, as well as to an owner whose property abuts the proposed high-impact electric transmission line, by an entity selected to construct a high-impact electric transmission line pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 2, or a transmission and distribution utility.
6. It establishes the circumstances under which a property owner's fees and expenses associated with seeking an award of damages for property taken by eminent domain must be paid by a transmission and distribution utility.
7. It prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Environmental Protection from issuing an order without a hearing for a development of a high-impact electric transmission line of state or regional significance that may substantially affect the environment. It also requires the department to require an applicant for such development to demonstrate to the department that the applicant conducted one or more public meetings regarding the transmission line prior to the submission of any application to the department.

Public Law 2023, chapter 644 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 22, 2024.

LD 2099 An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 533 modifies the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program established within the Governor's Energy Office to define a "combined project" for the purposes of the program and provides that the Governor's Energy Office may petition the Public Utilities

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Commission to procure energy, capacity or renewable energy credits in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3803 from distributed solar facilities or combined projects that receive federal funding pursuant to the program. It provides that the commission may not direct a transmission and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract for energy, capacity or renewable energy credits under the program unless the commission finds that the contract will benefit ratepayers and the procurement is in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3804.

Public Law 2023, chapter 533 also authorizes the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules relating to the Maine emerging industry compensation threshold in the laws governing the State's offshore wind initiative.

LD 2104 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 22 makes the following changes to the charter of the Wiscasset Water District.

1. It includes the Town of Edgecomb in the Wiscasset Water District subject to a referendum vote in the Town of Wiscasset and the Town of Edgecomb.
2. It authorizes the district to supply water to existing customers in the Town of Woolwich.
3. It authorizes the district to contract with the Town of Wiscasset for the management, oversight, operations and billing related to the functions of the Wiscasset Wastewater Department.
4. It amends the provisions of the charter governing trustees of the district to include a trustee who is a legal voter of the Town of Edgecomb and includes transition language to identify which trustee position is to be filled by a legal voter of the Town of Edgecomb and how a vacancy prior to the first election of a legal voter of the Town of Edgecomb must be filled.

LD 2163 An Act to Require Consumer Consent for Certain Generation Service Contract Renewals

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 636 does the following.

1. It provides that a competitive electricity provider may not renew a contract for generation service without the express consent of the residential consumer if the renewal rate is a fixed rate that is 20% or more above the contract rate in the expiring contract or greater than the fixed rate that would, at the time of the consumer's renewal, be offered by the competitive electricity provider to customers enrolling with the provider for an initial contract of a similar term and product offering.

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2. It prohibits a competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service at a variable rate without the express consent of the residential consumer if the expiring contract provided generation service at a fixed rate.
3. It prohibits a competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service for a term that differs from the term of the expiring contract without the express consent of the residential consumer.

LD 2193 An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Wireless Communications by Allowing the Public Utilities Commission to Designate Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 568 provides that the Public Utilities Commission may designate any provider or reseller of commercial mobile radio service as an eligible telecommunications carrier for purposes of receiving federal universal service support and offering services supported by federal universal service support mechanisms.

LD 2234 An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 570 amends the law related to telephone solicitations to require a telephone solicitor to use the Federal Communications Commission's reassigned numbers database to verify that a consumer's telephone number has not been reassigned prior to initiating a telephone sales call to that consumer.

LD 2242 An Act to Set a Debt Limit for the Anson and Madison Water District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 21 sets the debt limit of the Anson and Madison Water District at \$20,000,000. It also clarifies that it is the trustees who may issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness payable within a period of more than 12 months after the date of issuance up to a total amount of \$20,000,000, instead of the district issuing such debt.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 21 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2024.

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LD 2245 An Act to Clarify the Definition of “Underground Facility” and Reduce Administrative Burdens Under the So-called Dig Safe Law

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 572 does the following.

1. It amends the definition of an “underground facility” to include any item of personal property buried or placed below ground for use in connection with the storage or conveyance of liquefied propane gas.
2. It excludes from the definition of “underground facility” liquefied propane gas distribution systems that have underground pipes when that system is located on a residential lot that has no more than one structure connected by underground pipes to the liquefied propane gas distribution system, the structure has no more than two dwelling units and the liquefied propane gas tank is located 25 feet or less from the structure.
3. It amends the definition of an “underground facility operator” to include the owner or operator of an underground facility used in furnishing liquefied propane gas service.
4. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to amend its rule Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements to reduce the administrative burdens for underground facility operators under the so-called Dig Safe law and specifies that rules adopted for these purposes are routine technical rules.

LD 2254 An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 596 provides that consumer-owned water utilities, consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District may include or incorporate in operating expenses to be recovered in rates expenditures related to notifying the public of or conducting trustee elections and local referendum elections directly related to or legally required for the operation of such utilities. The law also permits consumer-owned water utilities, consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District to include or incorporate in operating expenses to be recovered in rates expenditures for lobbying or grassroots lobbying.

Public Law 2023, chapter 596 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2024.

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LD 2270 An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 23 creates the Lincoln Mill Facilities District. It establishes the territory for the district and authorizes the district to provide wastewater treatment, including sewer and sanitary services, for commercial and industrial users and water service for industrial purposes, including cooling water, but not for municipal or domestic use. The law includes provisions for various aspects of the district's operations including for the organization of the district's board of trustees and the authority to borrow money and to issue bonds and notes, to establish rates and tolls and to exercise the right of eminent domain.

Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 23 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2024.

LD 2278 An Act to Require Public Safety Answering Point and Dispatch Center Cost Reporting and to Direct the Formation of a Staffing and Recruiting Stakeholder Group

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 609 does the following.

1. It requires each public safety answering point and dispatch center to annually provide a report to the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau on the costs they incur for the provision of enhanced 9-1-1 services.
2. It requires the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to contract with one or more third party vendors, using revenues in the E-9-1-1 fund, to provide quality assurance review related to the provision of emergency medical dispatch services and answering fire 9-1-1 calls by public safety answering points.
3. It requires the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to convene a stakeholder group to develop a coordinated 9-1-1 staffing and recruiting effort for all public safety answering points. The bureau must ensure that there is representation on the stakeholder group from state, county and municipal public safety answering points. On or before February 21, 2025, the bureau must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters including any recommendations.
4. It provides funding to the Emergency Services Communication Bureau to hire one additional staff member.