

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

May 2016

MEMBERS:

SEN. DAVID WOODSOME, CHAIR
SEN. GARRETT P. MASON
SEN. DAWN HILL

REP. MARK N. DION, CHAIR
REP. ROBERTA B. BEAVERS
REP. CHRISTOPHER W. BABBIDGE
REP. DEANE RYKERSON
REP. JENNIFER L. DECHANT
REP. MARTIN J. GROHMAN
REP. BETH A. O'CONNOR
REP. NORMAN E. HIGGINS
REP. NATHAN J. WADSWORTH
REP. LARRY C. DUNPHY

STAFF:

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

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

**LD 273 An Act To Encourage and Enhance the Future of Waste-to-energy
Facilities by Establishing a Portfolio Requirement for Electricity from
Waste Energy Resources**

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R SAVIELLO T	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill does the following.

1. It amends the definition of renewable capacity resource to include waste energy resources.
2. It defines "waste energy resource" as a source of electrical generation that is fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling and whose total power capacity does not exceed 35 megawatts. In addition, the waste energy resource would have to meet Maine's air emissions standards for resource recovery facilities and licensing standards for solid waste facilities and ensure that residuals from the waste energy resource are disposed of at a landfill meeting Maine's licensing standards.
3. It requires 3.5% of a competitive energy providers' portfolio to come from waste energy resources.
4. It allows competitive energy providers to satisfy the portfolio requirements for waste energy resources through an alternative compliance payment mechanism, the rate of which is to be established by rule yearly by the Public Utilities Commission. Payment made by providers is to fund the Efficiency Maine Trust and Renewable Resource Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-519)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and it replaces the bill and changes the title. This amendment differs from the bill in the following ways.

1. It changes the term "waste energy resources" to "waste-to-energy resources" to be consistent with other statutory provisions.
2. It removes the section that would have added waste energy resources to the definition of "renewable capacity resource" in order to clarify that waste-to-energy resources would create a separate class of renewable energy credits.
3. It amends the definition of "renewable energy credit" to include electricity generated from waste-to-energy resources.
4. It includes in the definition of "waste-to-energy resource" a provision that disqualifies any generator that is a party to a power purchase agreement under the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.
5. It lowers the proposed portfolio requirement for waste-to-energy resources from 3.5% to 1% from January 1, 2017 to February 14, 2018 and to 2.5% beginning February 15, 2018 to more accurately reflect the level of generation from the eligible waste-to-energy facilities in Maine and to lessen the impact on ratepayers.
6. It adds language to clarify that renewable energy credits from waste-to-energy resources used to satisfy the new portfolio requirement may not be used to satisfy eligible resources and new renewable capacity resources portfolio requirements.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

7. It sets the initial alternative compliance payment base rate at \$10 per megawatt-hour, to be adjusted for inflation on an annual basis and published annually by the Public Utilities Commission.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-376)

This amendment repeals on June 30, 2020 the changes to the law effectuated by Committee Amendment "A."

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 466 An Act To Increase Competition and Ensure a Robust Information and PUBLIC 462
Telecommunications Market**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L	OTP-AM	H-655
WHITTEMORE R	OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to determine public policy for provider of last resort telecommunications service in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-655)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It replaces the bill, which is a concept draft.

The amendment does the following.

1. It defines the term "price cap incumbent local exchange carrier" or "price cap ILEC."
2. It provides that, 30 days after the applicable provision becomes effective, the price cap ILEC's provider of last resort service obligation will cease in Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, South Portland, Auburn, Biddeford and Sanford.
3. It provides that, every six months from the date the applicable provision becomes effective, the obligation of a price cap ILEC to provide provider of last resort service will be removed by issuance of a certificate by the Public Utilities Commission, in five of the additional 15 municipalities listed in the amendment, in order, as long as the price cap ILEC has met service quality requirements in the preceding two consecutive quarters.
4. It requires the price cap ILEC to continue to offer to each provider of last resort service customer to whom it was providing the service on the date the obligation to provide the service was removed, a telephone service with the same rates, terms and conditions as it provides to provider of last resort service customers to whom it is obligated to provide provider of last resort service, for one year from the date the obligation was removed.
5. It requires the commission to host a public meeting in each municipality affected by a proposed change in provider of last resort service to allow customers of a price cap ILEC to obtain information about the upcoming changes to service.
6. It requires that affected provider of last resort service customers be given advance notice of a change in provider of last resort service in the price cap ILEC's monthly billing statement, along with the date, time and location of a public meeting to be hosted by the commission.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

7. It allows, after a price cap ILEC has been relieved of its obligation to provide provider of last resort service in all the municipalities listed in the amendment, the price cap ILEC to petition the commission to be relieved of its obligation in one or more additional municipalities upon a finding that, in addition to the incumbent local exchange carrier, there is at least one wireline-facilities-based voice network service provider that offers service to at least 95% of the households in the municipality and one or more mobile telecommunications services providers that on a combined basis offer mobile telecommunications services to at least 97% of the households in the municipality, and that the price cap ILEC has met service quality requirements in the preceding two consecutive quarters.
8. It requires the commission to establish by rule the sources of information it will use, as well as the methodology it will employ, to make determinations on petitions.
9. It prohibits the commission from requiring wireline-facilities-based voice network service providers and mobile telecommunications services providers to provide competitive information.
10. It requires a price cap ILEC to provide 90 days' advance notice of its intent to file a petition; the notice must be provided to the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate and each customer in the municipality in which the price cap ILEC will be seeking relief from the provider of last resort service obligation.
11. It requires the commission to hold a public hearing in each affected municipality to allow customers and residents to testify, and requires that notice of the hearing be published by the price cap ILEC in a newspaper of general circulation.
12. It requires the commission to make a determination on a petition within 180 days, except that the commission may at its discretion extend this period for up to an additional 30 days.
13. It prohibits a price cap ILEC from discontinuing, reducing or impairing the service that it provides in a municipality, or part of a municipality, where it has previously served as the provider of provider of last resort service, unless the commission approves the discontinuance, reduction or impairment.
14. It allows the commission, if it approves a discontinuance, reduction or impairment of service, to impose terms, conditions or requirements to protect the public interest.
15. It requires the commission to adopt major substantive rules to implement the provisions related to the removal of provider of last resort service obligations and the abandonment process.
16. It specifies the rate a price cap ILEC may charge a provider of last resort service customer is not to exceed \$20 for a residential customer, except that, after one year after the applicable provision becomes effective, the price cap ILEC may raise the rate by no more than 5% annually.
17. It requires that low-income customers, which are those who qualify for assistance under the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline program, receive a monthly \$3.50 discount.
18. It establishes service quality requirements that must be met by a price cap ILEC providing provider of last resort service.
19. It requires a price cap ILEC to report quarterly to the commission on service quality metrics based on rolling one-year averages. The reports are confidential unless the price cap ILEC fails to meet service quality requirements for two consecutive quarters.
20. It requires the commission to issue an order directing that service quality be addressed if the service quality requirements are not met for any two consecutive quarters and the failure was within the price cap ILEC's control.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

21. It requires the commission to impose a penalty if a price cap ILEC fails to comply with an order directing that service quality be addressed.
22. It requires the commission to review its rules regarding service quality for providers of provider of last resort service and make any changes needed as a result of the enactment of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7225-A. The rule amendments are routine technical rules; such rules if adopted pursuant to statute would be major substantive rules.
23. It requires the commission to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters a report in 2018 and again in 2020 that includes a list of the municipalities in which the provider of last resort service obligation has been removed, as well as the effects of the removal on former provider of last resort service customers, the price cap ILEC's workforce, the maintenance and status of the copper line network, public safety and the cost, features and availability of telephone service, including service to the hearing impaired, and broadband service. Each report may include recommended legislation, and the committee may report out a bill for each report to the Legislature.
24. It prohibits the commission from accepting a petition to remove a provider of last resort service obligation, until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session in which a provider of last resort service report due in 2018 or 2020 was submitted, if in its report it makes any recommendations to modify or remove the petition process.
25. It requires the commission to examine all laws and rules of the State relating to provider of last resort service as they apply to a price cap ILEC and determine whether any changes may be needed to address the changes created by this amendment. It requires the commission to submit a report of its findings on this process, together with any necessary draft legislation to implement its recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by December 15, 2016. The committee may report out a bill related to provider of last resort service to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.
26. It requires that as part of its annual report the commission include information related to the changes in provider of last resort service.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-656)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It is the same as the majority report except for the following differences.

1. It does not require that the price cap ILEC meet service quality requirements in the preceding two consecutive quarters in order for the price cap ILEC to be relieved of the obligation to provide provider of last resort service in certain municipalities.
2. It requires the price cap ILEC to continue to offer to each provider of last resort service customer to whom it was providing the service on the date the obligation to provide the service was removed, a telephone service with the same rates, terms and conditions as it provides to provider of last resort service customers to whom it is obligated to provide provider of last resort service, for five years from the date the obligation was removed, instead of one year as in the majority report.
3. It does not prohibit the Public Utilities Commission from requiring wireline-facilities-based network providers and mobile telecommunications service providers to provide competitive information.
4. It maintains the current service quality requirements that were adopted through commission rulemaking, unlike the majority report, which includes specific service quality requirements in statute.
5. It changes reporting dates for commission review of the effect of the relief from provider of last resort obligation

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

to 2020 and 2022, instead of 2018 and 2020 as in the majority report.

6. It requires the commission to include information on the removal of the provider of last resort obligation in its annual report until 2024 instead of 2022 as in the majority report.

This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 462 does the following.

1. It defines the term "price cap incumbent local exchange carrier," or "price cap ILEC."
2. It provides that, 30 days after the applicable provision becomes effective, the price cap ILEC's provider of last resort service obligation will cease in Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, South Portland, Auburn, Biddeford and Sanford.
3. It provides that, every six months from the date the applicable provision becomes effective, the obligation of a price cap ILEC to provide provider of last resort service will be removed by issuance of a certificate by the Public Utilities Commission, in 5 of the additional 15 municipalities listed in the amendment, in order, as long as the price cap ILEC has met service quality requirements in the preceding two consecutive quarters.
4. It requires the price cap ILEC to continue to offer to each provider of last resort service customer to whom it was providing the service on the date the obligation to provide the service was removed, a telephone service with the same rates, terms and conditions as it provides to provider of last resort service customers to whom it is obligated to provide provider of last resort service, for one year from the date the obligation was removed.
5. It requires the commission to host a public meeting in each municipality affected by a proposed change in provider of last resort service to allow customers of a price cap ILEC to obtain information about the upcoming changes to service.
6. It requires that affected provider of last resort service customers be given advance notice of a change in provider of last resort service in the price cap ILEC's monthly billing statement, along with the date, time and location of a public meeting to be hosted by the commission.
7. It allows, after a price cap ILEC has been relieved of its obligation to provide provider of last resort service in all the municipalities listed in the amendment, the price cap ILEC to petition the commission to be relieved of its obligation in one or more additional municipalities upon a finding that, in addition to the incumbent local exchange carrier, there is at least one wireline-facilities-based voice network service provider that offers service to at least 95% of the households in the municipality and one or more mobile telecommunications services providers that on a combined basis offer mobile telecommunications services to at least 97% of the households in the municipality, and that the price cap ILEC has met service quality requirements in the preceding two consecutive quarters.
8. It requires the commission to establish by rule the sources of information it will use, as well as the methodology it will employ, to make determinations on petitions.
9. It prohibits the commission from requiring wireline-facilities-based voice network service providers and mobile telecommunications services providers to provide competitive information.
10. It requires a price cap ILEC to provide 90 days' advance notice of its intent to file a petition; the notice must be provided to the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate and each customer in the municipality in which the price cap ILEC will be seeking relief from the provider of last resort service obligation.
11. It requires the commission to hold a public hearing in each affected municipality to allow customers and residents to testify and requires that notice of the hearing be published by the price cap ILEC in a newspaper of

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

general circulation.

12. It requires the commission to make a determination on a petition within 180 days, except that the commission may at its discretion extend this period for up to an additional 30 days.
13. It prohibits a price cap ILEC from discontinuing, reducing or impairing the service that it provides in a municipality, or part of a municipality, where it has previously served as the provider of provider of last resort service, unless the commission approves the discontinuance, reduction or impairment.
14. It allows the Public Utilities Commission, if it approves a discontinuance, reduction or impairment of service, to impose terms, conditions or requirements to protect the public interest.
15. It requires the commission to adopt major substantive rules to implement the provisions related to the removal of provider of last resort service obligations and the abandonment process.
16. It specifies the rate a price cap ILEC may charge a provider of last resort service customer is not to exceed \$20 for a residential customer, except that, after one year after the applicable provision becomes effective, the price cap ILEC may raise the rate by no more than 5% annually.
17. It requires that low-income customers, which are those who qualify for assistance under the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline program, receive a monthly \$3.50 discount.
18. It establishes service quality requirements that must be met by a price cap ILEC providing provider of last resort service.
19. It requires a price cap ILEC to report quarterly to the commission on service quality metrics based on rolling one-year averages. The reports are confidential unless the price cap ILEC fails to meet service quality requirements for two consecutive quarters.
20. It requires the commission to issue an order directing that service quality be addressed if the service quality requirements are not met for any two consecutive quarters and the failure was within the price cap ILEC's control.
21. It requires the commission to impose a penalty if a price cap ILEC fails to comply with an order directing that service quality be addressed.
22. It requires the commission to review its rules regarding service quality for providers of provider of last resort service and make any changes needed as a result of the enactment of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7225-A. The rule amendments are routine technical rules; such rules if adopted pursuant to statute would be major substantive rules.
23. It requires the commission to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters a report in 2018 and again in 2020 that includes a list of the municipalities in which the provider of last resort service obligation has been removed, as well as the effects of the removal on former provider of last resort service customers, the price cap ILEC's workforce, the maintenance and status of the copper line network, public safety and the cost, features and availability of telephone service, including service to the hearing impaired, and broadband service. Each report may include recommended legislation, and the committee may report out a bill for each report to the Legislature.
24. It prohibits the commission from accepting a petition to remove a provider of last resort service obligation, until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session in which a provider of last resort service report due in 2018 or 2020 was submitted, if in its report it makes any recommendations to modify or remove the petition process.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

25. It requires the commission to examine all laws and rules of the State relating to provider of last resort service as they apply to a price cap ILEC and determine whether any changes may be needed to address the changes created by this amendment. It requires the commission to submit a report of its findings on this process, together with any necessary draft legislation to implement its recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by December 15, 2016. The committee may report out a bill related to provider of last resort service to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

26. It requires that as part of its annual report the commission include information related to the changes in provider of last resort service.

LD 826 An Act To Promote Maine's Economic Development and Critical Communications for Rural Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investments in High-speed Internet Died On Adjournment

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAUCIER R EDGEComb P	OTP-AM ONTP	H-523 H-542 DION M

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to increase funding to the ConnectME Authority from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to expand universal broadband and high-speed Internet into rural areas identified as the 6% of the State unserved by high-speed Internet. This bill proposes to make expanding high-speed Internet into unserved rural areas a key emphasis in the economic development of and to multiply the return to the State by directing the ConnectME Authority to use the increased funding to increase the rate of strategic broadband investment and leverage additional federal funding to provide middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure in the unserved areas and to correct broadband deficiencies identified in the ConnectME Authority's baseline update of 2013.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-523)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment provides an ongoing appropriation of \$1,000,000 annually from the General Fund to the ConnectMe Authority to be used for planning grants and to increase the deployment of broadband service.

House Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-542)

This amendment specifies that the funding must be used to increase the deployment of broadband service in unserved areas of the State.

LD 879 An Act To Ensure High-quality Telecommunications Services for Maine Consumers and Businesses ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCABE J	ONTP	

The bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill makes several changes in the regulation of telecommunications utilities.

1. It permits the Public Utilities Commission to eliminate alternative forms of regulation if the commission

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

determines that service deficiencies are occurring.

- 2. It requires the commission to adopt rules that provide for automatic penalties if service quality standards are not met.
- 3. It repeals a provision regarding the reporting of unscheduled outages to the Public Utilities Commission.
- 4. It reduces the number of exemptions a telephone utility has from customer service and regulatory requirements.
- 5. It removes the exemption from regulation for telecommunications services provided using interconnected voice over Internet protocol technology.

**LD 881 An Act To Allow the Public Utilities Commission To Contract for
Liquefied Natural Gas Storage and Distribution**

PUBLIC 445

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBSINS B	OTP-AM	H-600

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to contract for the storage and distribution of liquefied natural gas to provide a source of natural gas during peak winter months. This bill defines a "liquefied natural gas contract" and provides that, prior to entering into a contract, the commission must ensure that a liquefied natural gas facility will be located in a rural, low-income community within the State, a study has been conducted by an independent third party showing the construction of the facility will result in a minimum of 200 direct and indirect jobs, exclusive of jobs directly linked to the actual construction of the facility and, if feasible, the facility will be constructed by a qualified construction firm based in the State.

This bill also requires that before the commission executes or directs the execution of a liquefied natural gas contract, the Governor must approve in writing the contract.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-600)

This amendment replaces the bill. It amends the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act by giving the Public Utilities Commission the authority to execute an additional contract under the Act called a physical energy storage contract, which is a contract for physical storage capacity of liquefied natural gas. As in the Act, for energy cost reduction contracts, the commission may only execute a contract in consultation with the Governor's Energy Office and the Public Advocate. A contract or contracts for physical energy storage under this amendment may not exceed in total \$25,000,000 annually and the total of all contracts entered into under the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act may not exceed \$75,000,000 annually. This amendment makes the process for the determination and execution of a contract for physical energy storage consistent with the requirements for an energy cost reduction contract. The amendment specifies that prior to September 1, 2016, the commission may not initiate a proceeding for a physical energy storage contract unless the commission has issued an order in the adjudicatory proceeding initiated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 19, pending as of February 1, 2016, for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts that includes a determination of the contract amounts to be purchased. The amendment further specifies that the enactment of this amendment is not to be construed to reflect legislative findings on Public Law 2013, chapter 369, Part B, section 1, nor to have any substantive or procedural effect on the commission proceeding for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts pending as of February 1, 2016.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 445 amends the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act by giving the Public Utilities

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Commission the authority to execute an additional contract under the Act called a physical energy storage contract, which is a contract for physical storage capacity of liquefied natural gas. As in the Act, for energy cost reduction contracts, the commission may only execute a contract in consultation with the Governor's Energy Office and the Public Advocate. A contract or contracts for physical energy storage under this law may not exceed in total \$25,000,000 annually, and the total of all contracts entered into under the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act may not exceed \$75,000,000 annually. This law makes the process for the determination and execution of a contract for physical energy storage consistent with the requirements for an energy cost reduction contract. This law specifies that prior to September 1, 2016, the commission may not initiate a proceeding for a physical energy storage contract unless the commission has issued an order in the adjudicatory proceeding initiated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 19, pending as of February 1, 2016, for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts that includes a determination of the contract amounts to be purchased. This law further specifies that the enactment of this law is not to be construed to reflect legislative findings on Public Law 2013, chapter 369, Part B, section 1, nor to have any substantive or procedural effect on the commission proceeding for consideration of approval for one or more energy cost reduction contracts pending as of February 1, 2016.

LD 1073 An Act To Lower Energy Costs and Increase Access to Solar Energy for Agricultural Businesses Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO T	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill establishes the Solar Energy Agricultural Rebate Fund to be used by the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide rebates until December 31, 2017 for solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies to agricultural businesses. It provides that an agricultural business that is a customer of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility must be compensated for accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits every 12 months. It also authorizes customers of transmission and distribution utilities to elect to be billed using net energy billing.

LD 1075 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Canton Water District ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK J PETERSON M	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill amends the Canton Water District charter. It adds language allowing the district to contract out work, changes provisions governing the scheduling of the annual meeting of the board of trustees in order to increase flexibility and changes the provisions regarding compensation of trustees to have the trustees recommend and the municipal officers of the Town of Canton approve compensation amounts. It removes language allowing the trustees to include their annual report in the town report. It changes a quorum at annual and special meetings of the board of trustees from five percent to a majority of those present and narrows voting at those meetings from residents of the district to customers residing in the district. It also establishes readiness-to-serve charges, allows the district to invest in mutual funds and establishes liens for unpaid rates.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

LD 1302 An Act To Increase Competition and Ensure a Robust Information and Telecommunications Market

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill makes the following changes in the laws governing provider of last resort service:

1. Removes the requirement that a provider of provider of last resort service have the capacity to maintain uninterrupted voice service during a power failure, either through the incorporation into the network or network interface devices of suitable battery backup or through electric current;
2. Provides that after December 31, 2015 and until December 31, 2021:
 - A. No voice network service provider may be required to provide provider of last resort service without its express consent;
 - B. Provider of last resort service will not be provided in any United States census tract area in which there are, in addition to the incumbent local exchange carrier, at least one voice network service provider that provides telephone exchange service to at least 94% of the households in the census tract area and at least one mobile telecommunications services provider that provides mobile telecommunications services to at least 94% of the households in the census tract area;
 - C. For all other areas of the State, referred to as potential provider of last resort service, or POLR, areas, the Public Utilities Commission is required to develop rules establishing a process for designating willing providers of provider of last resort service. An incumbent local exchange carrier that voluntarily agrees to continue providing provider of last resort service in a potential POLR area remains the provider of provider of last resort service in that area until no longer willing to provide the service or until replaced by another provider or until December 31, 2021, whichever occurs first; and
 - D. In order to encourage voice network service providers to provide provider of last resort service in potential POLR areas, the commission is allowed to make available and provide state universal service fund money to providers of provider of last resort service.
3. Provides that after December 31, 2021:
 - A. Provider of last resort service is not available and the commission may not designate any voice network service provider to provide provider of last resort service in any area of the State; and
 - B. The commission is prohibited from requiring contributions to the state universal service fund and may not disburse or authorize disbursement of any money from the fund to any voice network service provider for the purpose of ensuring reasonably comparable consumer rates.
4. Directs the commission to examine all laws and rules relating to provider of last resort service and determine any changes that may be needed to conform those rules and laws to the provisions of this bill. The commission is directed to submit a report, together with any necessary draft legislation to implement its recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 15, 2015. The committee is authorized to report out a bill relating to provider of last resort service to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

LD 1315 An Act To Amend Maine's Restructuring Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY L MASON G	ONTP	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill allows an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to own generation assets if the Public Utilities Commission determines that ownership is beneficial to the utility's ratepayers.

LD 1339 An Act To Provide Relief to Maine Ratepayers

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THIBODEAU M DUNPHY L	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill direct the Public Utilities Commission to reject all bids to provide standard offer service, suspend the renewable portfolio standard, and issue a new request for proposals, if the commission does not receive a bid below ten cents per kilowatt hour for a class of customers in a transmission and distribution utility's service territory. If, following the new request for proposals, a bid is accepted by the commission for less than ten cents per kilowatt hour, the suspension of the renewable portfolio standards remains in effect for the duration of that standard offer period.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-424)

This amendment, which is the minority report, strikes the bill and instead allows the Public Utilities Commission, when it determines that electricity supply prices are at historically high levels, to set the alternative compliance payment rate for new renewable capacity resources at a level that reduces higher revenue for generators of new renewable capacity resources. The amendment also specifies that if the annualized average standard offer electricity supply pricing for residential customers is 10 cents per kilowatt hour or higher, the commission must reduce the alternative compliance payment rate by 100 percent, which has the effect of suspending the renewable portfolio requirement.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1382 An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON C	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill amends the statutes regarding electric industry restructuring and Public Law 2013, chapter 369 to allocate Maine Yankee settlement funds to assist low-income electricity ratepayers in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2 by directing that transmission and distribution utilities are to pay to the Public Utilities Commission all funds received and that certain remaining funds be used for investments in measures that reduce residential heating costs for low-income electricity customers.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-364)

This is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill. This amendment amends Public Law 2013, chapter 369 to require the Public Utilities Commission to distribute 50 percent of funds received by transmission and distribution utilities pursuant to litigation with the United States Department of Energy concerning decommissioning costs related to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to the Efficiency Maine Trust from fiscal year 2016-17 to fiscal year 2019-20. The amendment requires that settlement funds received by the trust be used for measures, investments, loans, arrangements and technical assistance to assist low-income residential electric utility customers with energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The amendment also specifies that the other 50 percent of the settlement funds must be used to reduce a transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the economy of the State. Lastly, the amendment specifies that after fiscal year 2019-20 the commission shall require the remaining funds to be used to reduce a transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the economy of the State.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1398 An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses

PUBLIC 498

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON G DUNPHY L	OTP-AM OTP-AM	S-422 S-471 WOODSOME D

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

This bill does the following.

1. It decreases the amount of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust revenue from a minimum of 50% to a minimum of 10% to be allocated to the reduction of electricity consumption or the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the lowering of energy costs at commercial or industrial facilities.
2. It adds loans and technical assistance to the required uses of the allocated funds.
3. It specifies the fiscal years of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 for funds to be allocated.
4. It increases the amount of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust revenue to be disbursed to ratepayers from 15% to 55% and specifies that the disbursement is to "business" ratepayers instead of just ratepayers as it is in the existing law and it limits that disbursement to business ratepayers to fiscal year 2015-16.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-422)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and it strikes and replaces the bill. This amendment provides that \$3,000,000 of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund revenue is to be returned to certain affected customers in the form of an annual disbursement during fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. The amendment requires that the Public Utilities Commission determine the allocation of disbursements based on an affected customer's proportion of the customer's retail purchase of electricity as measured in kilowatt-hours for the

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

prior calendar year. This amendment defines "affected customer." Affected customers that elect to use the disbursement toward an efficiency measure approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust would receive \$1 of assistance from the trust for every \$3 that is applied toward the measure by the affected customer as long as the total of assistance from the trust and the disbursement allocated by the commission does not exceed 65% of the total cost of the measure. This amendment also specifies that, other than the \$1 for every \$3 invested assistance, during the fiscal years in which the disbursements are allotted an affected customer is not eligible to receive financial or other assistance from the trust fund, except in relation to program opportunities noticed prior to July 1, 2016. This amendment requires that the commission include in the commission's annual report a description of its activities in relation to the disbursement process, a list of affected customers receiving disbursements and those affected customers who elect to use the disbursement toward efficiency measures and the results of the program.

This amendment requires that any revenue remaining after providing disbursements and accounting for other costs authorized be allocated in a proportional share to residential programs and commercial and industrial programs. This amendment adds that the remaining money be allocated to measures that also increase energy efficiency and that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available to low-income households. It also allows the trust to consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that lower peak capacity demand when promoting electricity savings.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-423)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and it strikes and replaces the bill. This amendment provides that \$2,000,000 of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund revenue is to be returned to certain affected customers in the form of an annual disbursement during fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. The amendment requires that the Public Utilities Commission determine the allocation of disbursements based on an affected customer's proportion of the customer's retail purchase of electricity as measured in kilowatt-hours for the prior calendar year. This amendment defines "affected customer." Affected customers that elect to use the disbursement toward an efficiency measure approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust would receive \$1 of assistance from the trust for every \$3 that is applied toward the measure by the affected customer as long as the total of assistance from the trust and the disbursement allocated by the commission does not exceed 65% of the total cost of the measure. This amendment also specifies that, other than the \$1 for every \$3 invested assistance, during the fiscal years in which the disbursements are allotted an affected customer is not eligible to receive financial or other assistance from the trust fund, except in relation to program opportunities noticed prior to July 1, 2016. This amendment requires that the commission include in the commission's annual report a description of its activities in relation to the disbursement process, a list of affected customers receiving disbursements and those affected customers who elect to use the disbursement toward efficiency measures and the results of the program.

This amendment requires that any revenue remaining after providing disbursements and accounting for other costs authorized be allocated in a proportional share to residential programs and commercial and industrial programs. This amendment adds that the remaining money be allocated to measures that also increase energy efficiency and that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available to low-income households. It also allows the trust to consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that lower peak capacity demand when promoting electricity savings.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-471)

This amendment allocates funds to the Public Utilities Commission to allow the commission to make disbursements to affected customers.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 498 provides that \$3,000,000 of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund revenue is to be returned to certain affected customers in the form of an annual disbursement during fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. This law requires that the Public Utilities Commission determine the allocation of

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

disbursements based on an affected customer's proportion of the customer's retail purchase of electricity as measured in kilowatt-hours for the prior calendar year. This law defines "affected customer." Affected customers that elect to use the disbursement toward an efficiency measure approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust would receive \$1 of assistance from the trust for every \$3 that is applied toward the measure by the affected customer as long as the total of assistance from the trust and the disbursement allocated by the commission does not exceed 65% of the total cost of the measure. This law also specifies that other than the \$1 for every \$3 invested assistance, during the fiscal years in which the disbursements are allotted an affected customer is not eligible to receive financial or other assistance from the trust fund, except in relation to program opportunities noticed prior to July 1, 2016. This law requires that the commission include in the commission's annual report a description of its activities in relation to the disbursement process, a list of affected customers receiving disbursements and those affected customers who elect to use the disbursement toward efficiency measures and the results of the program.

This law requires that any revenue remaining after providing disbursements and accounting for other costs authorized be allocated in a proportional share to residential programs and commercial and industrial programs. This law adds that the remaining money be allocated to measures that also increase energy efficiency and that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available to low-income households. It also allows the trust to consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that lower peak capacity demand when promoting electricity savings.

LD 1482 An Act To Revise the Charter of the Rumford Water District

P & S 14

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK J	OTP-AM	S-347 S-349 WOODSOME D

This bill revises the charter of the Rumford Water District.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-347)

This amendment clarifies that property rights, powers or authorities the Rumford Water District acquired through the acquisition of Union Construction Company, Virginia Spring Water Company, Rumford Falls Light and Water Company and the Mexico Water Company are not affected by the revised charter of the Rumford Water District unless those rights, powers or authorities are inconsistent with the revised charter of the Rumford Water District.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-349)

This amendment updates the language regarding the board of trustees for the Rumford Water District by removing language that is no longer applicable because the district is already in existence and has an established board of trustees. It makes clear that trustees are to be residents of the district and are to serve staggered terms. It also changes the expiration of a trustee's term from the first Monday in April to the first Monday in August.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 14 revises the charter of the Rumford Water District to make it more consistent with the Standard Water District Enabling Act and to update provisions to be consistent with current district practices.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

This bill allows a transmission and distribution utility to implement a program to assist low-income and other customers who need assistance with obtaining and installing efficient heat pumps. The utility is allowed to advertise the availability of the program to its customers under this bill. This bill requires that any program needs to be approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Under the bill all activities of the transmission and distribution utility under an approved program are considered regulated activities of the utility and are therefore subject to review and regulation by the commission. The bill specifies that the commission may establish rates for participating customers to cover program costs, and that the recovery of all reasonable and prudent costs associated with the programs can only occur through customers participating in the program and cannot be passed through to non-participating customers.

The bill also includes the following program elements:

1. Program participants get to select a third-party installer;
2. The utility may own the heat pump;
3. The utility may charge the customer for the costs associated with providing the heat pump;
4. The participating customer must be provided with the option to later buy the heat pump based on reasonable terms established by the commission;
5. The utility may undertake reasonable debt collection activities that are approved by the commission and that are consistent with applicable law for delinquent payments, but may not disconnect a customer's electric service due to a customer's delinquency under the program;
6. A customer's overall energy costs must decrease as a result of program participation, which is to be measured by the overall energy costs to customers over the lifespan of the heat pumps, regardless of the source of the energy, and the costs associated with participation in the program; and
7. A utility may offer incentives to participating customers to acquire efficient heat pumps to be used to reduce the total installation cost of the heat pump.

The bill also requires the transmission and distribution utility to provide upon the request of the commission sufficient information to demonstrate that the program is meeting the requirements of the law.

Lastly, this bill repeals provisions in law that allowed transmission and distribution utilities to develop and implement pilot programs to provide efficient electric heating systems.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-586)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. Like the bill, the amendment allows a transmission and distribution utility to implement a program to provide efficient electric heat pumps to its customers. Unlike the bill, the amendment clarifies that all activities of a transmission and distribution utility under an approved program are considered an unregulated business venture of the utility, rather than regulated activities of the utility subject to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission as a utility service.

The amendment also does the following.

1. It specifies that while all customers of a utility may participate in a program, the program is to target specific customers, such as low-income customers, senior citizens, customers who are unable to finance the purchase of a heat pump, customers who reside in rental dwellings and small businesses.
2. It makes clear that the sale, installation and maintenance of a heat pump are to occur through third party sellers

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

and installers chosen by the customer.

3. It prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from disconnecting for delinquent payments electric service to a heat pump serving as the only heating source for the customer during the winter.
4. It specifies that, at any time, a participating customer may elect to have that customer's heat pump removed at no cost or penalty.
5. It requires that a transmission and distribution utility must provide participating customers a plain language notice that they have the option to buy the heat pump.
6. It requires a plain language notice be provided before a customer elects to participate in the program that compares the costs of the program with the costs of directly purchasing a heat pump, including any applicable rebates or incentives available for purchasing such equipment.
7. It clarifies that an efficient electric heat pump is one that is consistent with the Efficiency Maine Trust eligibility criteria or criteria established by the commission by rule if the Efficiency Maine Trust does not establish such criteria and that a qualified heat pump installer is any installer that is listed as a registered vendor by the Efficiency Maine Trust for purposes of heat pump installations or as determined by the commission by rule if the Efficiency Maine Trust does not maintain a registry of vendors.
8. It clarifies that the determination that the overall energy costs to customers under a program decrease as a result of participation in the program is based on the best available information at the outset of the program.
9. It requires the utility to provide a triennial report to the commission outlining the degree to which the program is meeting the needs of customers, including the needs of customers targeted under this legislation.

The amendment retains the provision of the bill that repeals the provision of Public Law 2011, chapter 637 that allows transmission and distribution utilities to develop and implement similar pilot programs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 446 allows a transmission and distribution utility to develop, advertise, and implement, with the approval of the Public Utilities Commission, a program within its service territory to enable customers to access efficient electric heat pumps. This law allows a program to serve all customers, but the program must target low-income customers, senior citizens, customers unable to finance the purchase of a heat pump, customers who reside in rental dwellings and small businesses.

This law specifies that all activities of a transmission and distribution utility under an approved program must be considered an unregulated business venture of the utility in accordance with Title 35-A, section 713. This law allows the prudent costs associated with the program to be recoverable only from customers participating in a program through just and reasonable rates and charges approved by the commission.

This law specifies that an efficient electric heat pump is one that is consistent with the Efficiency Maine Trust eligibility criteria or criteria established by the commission by rule if the Efficiency Maine Trust does not establish such criteria.

This bill requires that based on the best available information at the outset of the program, a customer's overall energy costs is expected to decrease as a result of program participation, which is to be measured by the overall energy costs to customers over the lifespan of the heat pumps, regardless of the source of the energy, and the costs associated with participation in the program.

This law allows a transmission and distribution utility to offer incentives to customers participating in the program

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

to acquire efficient electric heat pumps from third party sellers or installer to be used to reduce the total installation cost of such heats. It requires that the sale, installation and maintenance of a heat pump are to occur through third party sellers and installers chosen by the customer. This law specifies that a qualified heat pump installer is any installer that is listed as a registered vendor by the Efficiency Maine Trust for purposes of heat pump installations or as determined by the commission by rule if the Efficiency Maine Trust does not maintain a registry of vendors.

This law prohibits a transmission and distribution utility from disconnecting for delinquent payments electric service to a heat pump serving as the only heating source for the customer during the winter. This law allows a participating customer to elect to have that customer's heat pump removed at any time at no cost or penalty. It requires that a transmission and distribution utility must provide participating customers a plain language notice that they have the option to buy the heat pump at reasonable terms approved by the commission. This law requires that a plain language notice be provided before a customer elects to participate in the program that compares the costs of the program with the costs of directly purchasing a heat pump, including any applicable rebates or incentives available for purchasing such equipment.

This law requires that upon request from the commission, a transmission and distribution utility that implements a program under this law must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the program is meeting requirements. It also requires the utility to provide a triennial report to the commission outlining the degree to which the program is meeting the needs of customers, including the needs of customers targeted under this legislation.

This law repeals the provision of Public Law 2011, chapter 637 that allows transmission and distribution utilities to develop and implement similar pilot programs.

LD 1585 An Act To Improve Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing by Updating the Laws Governing Qualifications for Certain Members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council PUBLIC 398

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAVERS R MASON G	OTP	

This bill changes the qualifications of four members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council to reflect changes in the State regarding advocates for persons with disabilities, telecommunications relay services and the Internet and wireless and cable telecommunications.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 398 changes the qualifications of four members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council to reflect changes in the State regarding advocates for persons with disabilities, telecommunications relay services and the Internet and wireless and cable telecommunications.

LD 1649 An Act To Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-666
	OTP-AM	S-522 WOODSOME D
	OTP-AM	

This bill was reported by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 37, section 2. The resolve directed the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to develop an alternative to net energy billing. This bill

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

reflects the consensus developed in that process and subsequent negotiations between stakeholders and establishes a comprehensive framework to support distributed generation in Maine.

The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to enter into long-term contracts with a duration of 20 years for the procurement of 248 megawatts of solar energy over a five year period beginning in 2017. The bill specifies that 24% or 60 megawatts are to be allotted to grid-scale solar distributed generation resources; 19% or 45 megawatts to large-scale community solar distributed generation resources; 10% or 25 megawatts to commercial and industrial distributed generation resources; and 47% or 118 megawatts to residential and small business distributed generation resources.

The bill creates a standard buyer, which the bill specifies is the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in its service territory. The bill allows the commission to designate another entity as the standard buyer if it determines it is in the best interest of ratepayers to do so. The purpose of the standard buyer is to purchase the output of each category of distributed generation resource, aggregate the portfolio of distributed generation resources procured and sell it into the relevant New England markets.

The bill directs the commission to conduct competitive solicitations for 20% of the five year target procurement for long-term contracts for the output of grid-scale, large-scale community, and commercial and industrial solar distributed generation. The frequency of solicitation varies with the particular category of distributed generation resource. The bill directs the commission and standard buyer to develop a contract prior to a solicitation that will ensure that projects proceed to commercial operation on a reasonable timeline and commits all parties to commercially reasonable behavior. The bill gives the commission authority to establish requirements for bidder eligibility and standards to ensure competition in the bidding process. The bill also specifies that if the solicitation is deemed competitive the commission must select one or more winning bids and direct the standard buyer to negotiate and enter into a contract with the winning bidder or bidders. The bill requires the commission to select bids that maximize the benefits or minimize the costs to all ratepayers.

The bill provides that residential and small business customers receive 20-year contracts at a set price for new distributed generation resources that are 250 kilowatts or less. The bill specifies that those customers would have the option of selling their entire output or using their generation to offset their electric consumption with the ability to sell any excess electricity at prices established under the contracts. The bill provides that the commission would set the contract price and the price new customers receive would decrease over time as the installations increase. Contract prices set by the commission must be high enough to meet the specified targets but be below a cap on the overall cost of this portion of the program. The bill also allows the commission to establish a rate adjustment mechanism to increase rates for new customers to increase the number of installations and to meet targets.

The bill specifies that existing net metering customers may continue to net meter under commission rules for 12 years after the effective date of major substantive rules adopted as required by the bill to implement the residential and small business program. The bill allows existing net metering customers to enter into a long-term contract under the new program but does not allow new customers to participate in net metering.

The bill requires the commission to initiate a proceeding 18 months after the effective date of major substantive rules adopted to implement the residential and small business solar program or when 21 megawatts of such solar capacity has been installed, whichever is sooner, to determine if installation targets are likely to be met by 2022, and the total cost to all customers is likely to be less using long-term contracts rather than net metering. The bill specifies that if the commission does not find that installation targets are going to be met and long-term contracts are not going to be more cost-effective than net metering, the commission may modify the rules, with legislative approval, to meet the goals and reduce costs. If the rules cannot be modified and the commission does not propose an alternative to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, or if the Legislature fails to act, then net metering will be available to new customers.

The bill also allows for a solar power offer, in addition to the existing green power offer under the Maine Revised

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3212-A, that is available to all residential and small commercial electricity customers. Like the green power offer, the solar power offer sunsets on April 1, 2021.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-666)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment does the following.

1. It corrects cross-references in the bill to other sections within the bill and corrects terminology for consistency.
2. It clarifies language regarding rates and the rate adjustment mechanism as they relate to the residential and small business segment.
3. It clarifies that existing net energy customers may enter into contracts even if they exceed the facility size limitations in the bill for a residential and small business distributed generation resource.
4. It changes the time frame for program review of the residential and small business segment to one year or when 14 megawatts of capacity have been installed, whichever is earlier, instead of 18 months or 21 megawatts as in the bill.
5. It changes the reporting date on the program review from the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.
6. It requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters that evaluates what actions can be taken to ensure that any new solar distributed generation resource procured pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 3477 to 3479 on "prime farmland" or "farmland of statewide importance" is designed, built and decommissioned in a manner that retains topsoil and enables the farmland to be returned to agricultural use. Each committee is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature based on the report.
7. It prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from contracting for new solar distributed generation resources to be sited on farmland designated as "prime farmland" or "farmland of statewide importance" until 90 days after the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-667)

This amendment is a minority report of the committee and it strikes and replaces the bill, including the title. This amendment replaces the provisions of law governing net energy billing with the following.

1. It allows investor-owned transmission and distribution utility customers to participate in net metering.
2. It requires that the Public Utilities Commission allow by rule net energy billing for municipal and community distributed energy resource projects.
3. If after finding that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility's cumulative capacity of generating facilities subject to commission rules reaches 1% or more of the utility's peak demand, and the Public Utilities Commission reviews its net energy billing rules to determine whether net energy billing should continue or be modified, the amendment requires the commission to retain an independent consultant experienced in net energy billing systems to assist in its review.
4. It requires that the commission amend its net energy billing rules by February 1, 2017 to be consistent with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A, subsection 2.

This amendment was not adopted.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Committee Amendment "C" (H-668)

This amendment is a minority report of the committee. This amendment does the following.

1. It corrects cross-references in the bill to other sections within the bill and corrects terminology for consistency.
2. It removes the grid-scale segment and adds a municipal solar distributed generation resource segment and an agricultural business solar distributed generation resource segment.
3. It changes the procurement targets for all segments and sets decreasing rate caps.
4. It reduces the term for a contract to 15 years, except in the residential and small business segment, which is no longer than 15 years.
5. It removes provisions related to rates that are no longer applicable due to the rate caps.
6. It clarifies that existing net energy customers may enter into contracts even if they exceed the facility size limitations in the bill for a residential and small business distributed generation resource.
7. It changes the time frame for program review of the residential and small business segment to one year or when 14 megawatts of capacity have been installed, whichever is earlier, instead of 18 months or 21 megawatts as in the bill.
8. It changes the reporting date on the program review from the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.
9. It requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters that evaluates what actions can be taken to ensure that any new solar distributed generation resource procured pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 3477 to 3479 on "prime farmland" or "farmland of statewide importance" is designed, built and decommissioned in a manner that retains topsoil and enables the farmland to be returned to agricultural use. Each committee is authorized to report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature based on the report.
10. It prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from contracting for new solar distributed generation resources to be sited on farmland designated as "prime farmland" or "farmland of statewide importance" until 90 days after the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.
11. It adds two reporting requirements, one in 2019 and one in 2021 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on the status of solar distributed generation resource procurement. It requires the commission to report on the status of procurement for each distributed generation resource segment. If procurement targets are not likely to be met, the commission is directed to include recommendations to achieve those targets. The committee may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature and may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-522)

This amendment:

1. Shortens the time allowed for attaining the procurement targets from five years to four years, through 2021, with a corresponding reduction in size of each market segment, with the exception of the commercial, industrial and

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

municipal market segment;

2. Specifies that the commercial and industrial market segment also includes municipalities and increases that market segment to 40 megawatts from 25 megawatts;
3. Reserves eight megawatts for agricultural businesses and adds a definition of "agricultural business;"
4. Caps the prices to be paid for each market segment by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to reject bids that exceed specified percentages of the residential price as follows:
 - A. Grid scale, 75% of the residential price;
 - B. Community, 90% of the residential price; and
 - C. Commercial, industrial and municipal, 90% of the residential price.
5. Reduces from \$10,500,000 to \$6,600,000 the total price for residential contracts to reflect the smaller procurement target size;
6. Requires that the commission impose a cap on the rate adjustment mechanism to ensure that costs do not exceed the cost impact to ratepayers of net metering and to specify this cap by rule;
7. Specifies that the commission may require 15-year contracts if it concludes that shorter contracts would benefit ratepayers; and
8. Establishes an additional reporting requirement in 2020 regarding the impact of the cost to all ratepayers of the procurement targets.

**LD 1651 An Act To Exempt Certain Natural Gas Consumers from an Assessment
and To Extend a Moratorium on Assessments for Other Large-volume
Consumers of Natural Gas**

PUBLIC 425

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

This bill was reported ought to pass by the committee pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 39, section 2.

This bill prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from allowing a gas utility to collect an assessment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10111 through its rates from a wholesale electricity-generating facility that has a nameplate capacity of three megawatts or more and prohibits such a facility from participating in any natural gas conservation program. The bill also establishes a moratorium on assessments for large-volume consumers by gas utilities until 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. This bill specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not allow a natural gas utility to collect an assessment under Title 35-A, section 10111 through its rates from large-volume consumers and may not make a final decision regarding the appropriateness of or size of such collections from large-volume consumers. The bill specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not order or authorize a natural gas utility to exempt from collection of an assessment through its rates any consumers other than large-volume consumers. The bill specifies that, during this same time period, large-volume consumers are not eligible to participate in any Efficiency Maine Trust natural gas conservation programs. This bill also ensures that any assessment by the commission under Title 35-A, section 10111 must be in an amount necessary to capture all cost-effective energy efficiency that is achievable and reliable only for consumers who are not exempt under Title 35-A, section 10111, subsection 2-A, or who are not

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

large-volume consumers, until 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This bill defines "large-volume consumer" as a consumer using 1,000,000 centum cubic feet or more of natural gas per year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 425 prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from allowing a gas utility to collect an assessment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10111 through its rates from a wholesale electricity-generating facility that has a nameplate capacity of three megawatts or more and prohibits such a facility from participating in any natural gas conservation program. The law also establishes a moratorium on assessments for large-volume consumers by gas utilities until 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. This law specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not allow a natural gas utility to collect an assessment under Title 35-A, section 10111 through its rates from large-volume consumers and may not make a final decision regarding the appropriateness of or size of such collections from large-volume consumers. The law specifies that the Public Utilities Commission may not order or authorize a natural gas utility to exempt from collection of an assessment through its rates any consumers other than large-volume consumers. The law specifies that, during this same time period, large-volume consumers are not eligible to participate in any Efficiency Maine Trust natural gas conservation programs. This law also ensures that any assessment by the commission under Title 35-A, section 10111 must be in an amount necessary to capture all cost-effective energy efficiency that is achievable and reliable only for consumers who are not exempt under Title 35-A, section 10111, subsection 2-A, or who are not large-volume consumers, until 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

This law defines "large-volume consumer" as a consumer using 1,000,000 centum cubic feet or more of natural gas per year.

LD 1676 An Act To Establish a Process for the Procurement of Biomass Resources

**PUBLIC 483
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM OTP-AM ONTP	S-517 S-539 WOODSOME D

This bill is reported by the committee pursuant to joint order, S.P. 668.

This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct competitive solicitations and negotiate the procurement of new or existing renewable resources. The commission is directed to procure by September 1, 2016, through an expedited proceeding, 80 megawatts of new or existing renewable resources for contracts of five years and, by September 1, 2017, 60 megawatts of new or existing renewable resources for contracts of no longer than ten years. This bill provides that any facility that generates new or existing renewable resources that are procured by the commission is deemed to produce zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-517)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and it strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment does the following.

1. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a competitive solicitation as soon as practicable to procure up to 80 megawatts of biomass resources, contingent upon available funds for above-market costs.
2. It allows the contract to be a contract for energy or a contract for differences.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

3. It provides the contract may include the purchase of capacity or attributes, but the commission may not condition any solicitation or contract on an offer or sale of capacity or renewable energy attributes.
4. It requires that in order for a facility to receive a contract it must be operating at 50% capacity six months prior to the initiation of a competitive solicitation and continue to operate at that capacity except for planned and forced outages.
5. It requires the commission to seek to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that a contract entered into provides benefits to ratepayers; provides in-state benefits, such as capital investments to improve long-term viability of the facility, permanent direct jobs, payments to municipalities, payments for fuel harvested in the State, payment for in-state resource access, in-state purchases of goods and services and construction-related jobs and purchases; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; promotes fuel diversity; and supports or improves grid reliability.
6. It requires that the commission determine the total in-state economic benefits of the contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average and the cost to fund the above-market costs of a contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average.
7. It specifies that if the commission finds the in-state benefits are not being achieved, the commission may reduce the contract payment by the percentage difference between actual in-state benefits achieved and the projected in-state benefits.
8. It creates a non-lapsing fund within the commission, called the cost recovery fund, to pay the above-market costs of the contract, which is funded through transfers from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532.
9. It limits the commission's authority to enter into a contract based on the availability of funds in the cost recovery fund.
10. It specifies that, if insufficient funds are available in the fund to pay above-market costs under a contract, the contract is suspended.
11. It requires the State Controller to transfer \$6,700,000 on or before September 1, 2016 and on or before September 1, 2017 to the cost recovery fund.
12. It requires all costs that are not above-market costs and direct financial benefits associated with a contract for biomass resources to be allocated to ratepayers in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3210-F.
13. It directs the commission to initiate a competitive solicitation in a manner consistent with Title 35-A, section 3210-C by July 1, 2017 to procure up to 40 megawatts of electric energy generated by a combined heat and power facility or facilities for a period of 10 years.
14. It specifies that the commission may direct an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to enter into a contract only if the commission finds that the likely benefit to ratepayers resulting from any contract entered into as a result of the solicitation process will exceed the likely costs.
15. It requires that in order for a facility to qualify for a contract it must have a designed operating efficiency ratio of useful electric and thermal output to the fuel input of at least 60% and be a new facility or a facility that has been refurbished through significant capital investment.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-518)

This amendment is a minority report of the committee and it strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment does the

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

following.

1. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a competitive solicitation as soon as practicable to procure up to 80 megawatts of biomass resources, contingent upon available funds for above-market costs.
2. It allows the contract to be a contract for energy or a contract for differences.
3. It provides the contract may include the purchase of capacity or attributes, but the commission may not condition any solicitation or contract on an offer or sale of capacity or renewable energy attributes.
4. It requires that in order for a facility to receive a contract it must be operating at 50% capacity six months prior to the initiation of a competitive solicitation and continue to operate at that capacity except for planned and forced outages.
5. It requires the commission to seek to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that a contract entered into provides benefits to ratepayers; provides in-state benefits, such as capital investments to improve long-term viability of the facility, permanent direct jobs, payments to municipalities, payments for fuel harvested in the State, payment for in-state resource access, in-state purchases of goods and services and construction-related jobs and purchases; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; promotes fuel diversity; and supports or improves grid reliability.
6. It requires that the commission determine the total in-state economic benefits of the contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average and the cost to fund the above-market costs of a contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average.
7. It specifies that if the commission finds the in-state benefits are not being achieved, the commission may reduce the contract payment by the percentage difference between actual in-state benefits achieved and the projected in-state benefits.
8. It creates a non-lapsing fund within the commission, called the cost recovery fund, to pay the above-market costs of the contract, which is funded through transfers from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532.
9. It limits the commission's authority to enter into a contract based on the availability of funds in the cost recovery fund.
10. It specifies that, if insufficient funds are available in the fund to pay above-market costs under a contract, the contract is suspended.
11. It requires the State Controller to transfer \$6,700,000 on or before September 1, 2016 and on or before September 1, 2017 to the cost recovery fund.
12. It requires all costs that are not above-market costs and direct financial benefits associated with a contract for biomass resources to be allocated to ratepayers in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3210-F.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-538)

This amendment:

1. Adds an emergency preamble and clause;
2. Removes language that limits the Public Utilities Commission's authority to enter into a contract based on the

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

availability of funds in the cost recovery fund;

3. Requires that a biomass resource facility is operating at least at a 50% capacity for 60 days rather than 6 months prior to initiation of the competitive solicitation;
4. Provides that if the Public Utilities Commission concludes that the solicitation is not competitive, no bidders may be selected;
5. Removes language that requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a competitive solicitation for a combined heat and power solicitation; and
6. Eliminates cost recovery through the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and instead directs the State Controller at the close of fiscal year 2015-16 to transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund up to \$13,400,000 to the cost recovery fund established for this purpose. At the close of fiscal year 2016-17, amounts remaining in the cost recovery fund that the commission has determined are not needed to pay above-market costs must be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532. If funds in the cost recovery fund are insufficient, the commission is directed to recover the funds through amounts charged to ratepayers.

This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-539)

This amendment:

1. Adds an emergency preamble and clause;
2. Requires that a biomass resource facility is operating at least at a 50% capacity for 60 days rather than 6 months prior to initiation of the competitive solicitation;
3. Provides that if the Public Utilities Commission concludes that the solicitation is not competitive, no bidders may be selected;
4. Removes language that requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a competitive solicitation for a combined heat and power solicitation; and
5. Eliminates cost recovery through the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and instead directs the State Controller at the close of fiscal year 2015-16 to transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund up to \$13,400,000 to the cost recovery fund established for this purpose. At the close of fiscal year 2016-17, amounts remaining in the cost recovery fund that the commission has determined are not needed to pay above-market costs must be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 483 directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a competitive solicitation as soon as practicable to procure up to 80 megawatts of biomass resources, contingent upon available funds for above-market costs. It allows the commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into one or more two year contracts for these biomass resources. This law allows the contract to be a contract for energy or a contract for differences. This law provides that the contract may include the purchase of capacity or attributes, but the commission may not condition any solicitation or contract on an offer or sale of capacity or renewable energy attributes. This law requires that in order for a facility to receive a contract it must be operating at 50% capacity 60 days prior to the initiation of a competitive solicitation and continue to operate at that capacity except for planned and forced outages. This law requires the commission to seek to ensure, to the maximum extent

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

possible, that a contract entered into provides benefits to ratepayers; provides in-state benefits, such as capital investments to improve long-term viability of the facility, permanent direct jobs, payments to municipalities, payments for fuel harvested in the State, payment for in-state resource access, in-state purchases of goods and services and construction-related jobs and purchases; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; promotes fuel diversity; and supports or improves grid reliability. It provides that if the commission concludes that the solicitation is not competitive, no bidders may be selected and the commission is not obligated to enter into a contract.

It requires that the commission determine the total in-state economic benefits of the contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average and the cost to fund the above-market costs of a contract in an expected annual dollar per megawatt-hour average. This law specifies that if the commission finds the in-state benefits are not being achieved, the commission may reduce the contract payment by the percentage difference between actual in-state benefits achieved and the projected in-state benefits.

This law creates a non-lapsing fund within the commission, called the cost recovery fund, to pay the above-market costs of the contract, which is funded through transfers at the close of fiscal year 2015-16 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund of up to \$13,400,000. It prohibits facilities serving the area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine or any successor of the independent system administrator for northern Maine from being awarded more than 50% of the funds.

This law requires that at the close of fiscal year 2016-17, amounts remaining in the cost recovery fund that the commission has determined are not needed to pay above-market costs must be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532. It requires all costs that are not above-market costs and direct financial benefits associated with a contract for biomass resources to be allocated to ratepayers in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3210-F. It requires the commission by rule or order to establish how above-market costs are determined and how payments from the fund are to be made. It allows the commission to adopt routine technical rules to implement this law.

Public Law 2015, chapter 483 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2016.

LD 1693 *Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry*

RESOLVE 85

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GIDEON S BURNS D	OTP-AM	H-662

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry. Membership of the commission consists of, among others, Legislators, a wood harvester and representatives of the biomass energy generation industry, a sawmill, the pulp and paper industry and users of biomass energy. The commission is required to examine and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine's biomass resources, as well as public policy and economic proposals to create and maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry, and determine whether the environmental, economic and energy benefits of biomass support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the role that biomass and the forest products industry play throughout the State. The commission is required to report the results of its study and any recommendations by December 6, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-662)

This amendment removes from membership on the commission established in the resolve the Director of the Efficiency Maine Trust, or the director's designee, and the chair of the Public Utilities Commission, or the chair's designee. It removes language that limits who may provide public input. It removes the requirement that the commission hire a third party to help with data collection, research and best practices and to develop policy

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

recommendations. Lastly, it removes language that requires the commission to be funded by federal funds provided by the United States Department of Energy.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2015, chapter 85 establishes the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry. Membership of the commission consists of Legislators, a wood harvester and representatives of the biomass energy generation industry, a sawmill, the pulp and paper industry and users of biomass energy. The commission is required to examine and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine's biomass resources, as well as public policy and economic proposals to create and maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry, and determine whether the environmental, economic and energy benefits of biomass support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the role that biomass and the forest products industry play throughout the State. The commission is required to report the results of its study and any recommendations by December 6, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

LD 1703 An Act To Make a Technical Correction to Public Law 2015, Chapter 483

**PUBLIC 513
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME D		

This bill was not referred to committee.

This bill makes a technical correction to Public Law 2015, chapter 483. This bill removes an unnecessary reference to an inapplicable section of law, and clarifies that the transfer of funds to a cost recovery fund occurs after the transfer to the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1536. The bill also includes a retroactivity clause making the technical correction applicable retroactively to April 16, 2016.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 513 makes a technical correction to Public Law 2015, chapter 483. This law removes an unnecessary reference to an inapplicable section of law, and clarifies that the transfer of funds to a cost recovery fund occurs after the transfer to the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1536. This law also includes a retroactivity clause making the technical correction applicable retroactively to April 16, 2016.

Public Law 2015, chapter 513 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 3, 2016.

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

SUBJECT INDEX

Electricity

Not Enacted

LD 1315	An Act To Amend Maine's Restructuring Laws	ONTP
LD 1339	An Act To Provide Relief to Maine Ratepayers	Died Between Houses
LD 1513	An Act To Clarify Laws Relating to Affiliate Ownership of Electric Generation	ONTP

Energy

Enacted

LD 1676	An Act To Establish a Process for the Procurement of Biomass Resources	PUBLIC 483 EMERGENCY
LD 1693	Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry	RESOLVE 85
LD 1703	An Act To Make a Technical Correction to Public Law 2015, Chapter 483	PUBLIC 513 EMERGENCY

Not Enacted

LD 273	An Act To Encourage and Enhance the Future of Waste-to-energy Facilities by Establishing a Portfolio Requirement for Electricity from Waste Energy Resources	INDEF PP
--------	--	----------

Energy Efficiency

Enacted

LD 1398	An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses	PUBLIC 498
LD 1558	An Act To Enable Low-income and Other Customers Greater Access To Efficient Electric Heat Pumps through Unique Financing and Third-party Installation and Maintenance	PUBLIC 446

Miscellaneous - Utilities and Energy

Not Enacted

LD 1382	An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers	Majority (ONTP) Report
---------	---	------------------------

Natural Gas

Enacted

LD 881	An Act To Allow the Public Utilities Commission To Contract for Liquefied Natural Gas Storage and Distribution	PUBLIC 445
--------	--	------------

LD 1651	An Act To Exempt Certain Natural Gas Consumers from an Assessment and To Extend a Moratorium on Assessments for Other Large-volume Consumers of Natural Gas	PUBLIC 425
---------	---	------------

Solar Energy

Not Enacted

LD 1073	An Act To Lower Energy Costs and Increase Access to Solar Energy for Agricultural Businesses	Majority (ONTP) Report
LD 1649	An Act To Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development	Veto Sustained

Telecommunications

Enacted

LD 466	An Act To Increase Competition and Ensure a Robust Information and Telecommunications Market	PUBLIC 462
LD 1585	An Act To Improve Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing by Updating the Laws Governing Qualifications for Certain Members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council	PUBLIC 398

Not Enacted

LD 879	An Act To Ensure High-quality Telecommunications Services for Maine Consumers and Businesses	ONTP
LD 1302	An Act To Increase Competition and Ensure a Robust Information and Telecommunications Market	ONTP

Telecommunications - Broadband

Not Enacted

LD 826	An Act To Promote Maine's Economic Development and Critical Communications for Rural Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investments in High-speed Internet	Died On Adjournment
--------	---	---------------------

Water/Sewer - Charters

Enacted

LD 1482	An Act To Revise the Charter of the Rumford Water District	P & S 14
LD 1495	An Act To Allow the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District To Establish and Maintain a Capital Reserve Fund	P & S 12

Not Enacted

LD 1075	An Act To Amend the Charter of the Canton Water District	ONTP
---------	--	------