
Summary of the
127th Maine Legislature
1st Regular Session

Prepared for:

American Council of Engineering Companies

All laws have an effective date of October 15, 2015, unless otherwise noted.



LD [395](#) **An Act To Clarify Storm Water Management Standards for Expansions of Existing Projects**
[Public Law, Chapter 34](#)

An existing project that is expanded does not require review pursuant to this section for the existing portion of the project as long as the existing portion met all applicable state and municipal standards for storm water management in effect at the time the existing portion was constructed. This exemption does not apply to:

- (1) An existing project that is expanded if the existing storm water management system will be used, in whole or in part, to treat storm water flowing from the expanded portion of the existing project;
- (2) The expanded portion of the existing project; or
- (3) A redevelopment project as defined by the department by rule.

LD [912](#) **An Act To Allow the Establishment of Regional Municipal Utility Districts To Support Broadband Communications**
[Public Law, Chapter 222](#)

The laws governing interlocal agreements are amended to expressly allow an agreement that establishes a regional municipal utility district to provide or, through public-private partnerships, to support or promote the provision of broadband services and Internet services, and to issue revenue bonds in support of any of these activities. A regional municipal utility district that seeks to provide services that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission would be subject to the commission's regulations.

LD [1028](#) **An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Registration of Professional Engineers**
[Public Law, Chapter 228](#)
(Emergency bill: this legislation took effect when approved)

Professional engineer licenses expire on the last day of December of each odd-numbered year and a licensee may not practice professional engineering with an expired license. The board shall notify every person licensed under this chapter of the date of the expiration of that person's license and the amount of the fee that is required for its renewal. The notice must be provided at least one month in advance of the date of the expiration of the license. A license may be renewed after completion of professional development requirements and after payment of a fee established by rule by the board, which may not exceed \$200 annually. Licenses may be renewed up to 90 days after the date of expiration upon payment of a late fee established by rule by the board in addition to the renewal fee. Any person who submits an application for renewal more than 90 days after the license renewal date is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under this chapter, except that if the renewal application is made within 3 years from the date of the expiration the board may, giving due consideration to the protection of the public, any additional qualifications if the licensee has held a license for at least 10 years, has completed all professional development requirements and has never been subject to discipline in this or any other jurisdiction.

LD [1063](#) **An Act To Promote Community Broadband Planning and Strengthen Economic Opportunity throughout Maine**
[Public Law, Chapter 284](#)

Changes are made to the Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act. The ConnectME Authority is directed to give preference when supporting broadband infrastructure to investments that provide the greatest relative improvement to existing broadband service in an unserved or underserved area.

Plans funded through grants include one or more potential network designs, cost estimates, operating models and potential business models based on input from broadband providers and any other parties that submit a design solution in the course of plan development. The ConnectME Authority must ensure that grants are equitably distributed throughout the unserved and underserved areas of the State and that the grants encourage collaboration between multiple communities. Matching funds for broadband planning grants may not consist of in-kind contributions from the municipality or a party with a financial interest in a broadband infrastructure project that would be constructed pursuant to a planning grant. Infrastructure investments may be capable of being used either by a single provider or by multiple providers.

The ConnectME Authority's triennial plan submission is extended from December 31, 2015 to February 15, 2016.

LD [1168](#) **An Act To Prohibit the Use of Eminent Domain in Certain Public-private Partnerships and To Prohibit the Use of Eminent Domain by a Private Business Entity in a Public-private Partnership**
[Public Law, Chapter 263](#)

The law governing public-private partnerships for transportation projects is amended to clarify that all projects must comply with the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, to explicitly state that the Department of Transportation may not confer its power of eminent domain on a private entity and to require the Department of Transportation to report by February 1st of every year on the status of any projects and any substantive changes.

LD [1182](#) **An Act To Exempt Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**
[Public Law, Chapter 126](#)

The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, the entity responsible for maintenance of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code is required to exempt buildings used to house livestock or harvested crops from the code.

LD [1205](#) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors**
[Public Law, Chapter 337](#)

The funds provided by this bond issue will be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable homes to low-income Maine seniors; \$14,500,000 for construction of new homes for seniors and

\$500,000 for home repair and weatherization. At least 4 homes must be located in counties having populations under 100,000. Preference will be given to home locations that have access to health care services, other essential goods and services and public transportation. The bond proceeds will leverage an estimated \$22,600,000 in private and other funds.

LD [1215](#) An Act To Provide Lower Energy Costs to Maine Businesses and Residences by Carrying Out the Legislature's Intent Regarding Funding of the Efficiency Maine Trust
[Public Law, Chapter 255](#)

An error that was created when the word "and" was inadvertently omitted during the production of a bill reported out by the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, "An Act To Reduce Energy Costs, Increase Energy Efficiency, Promote Electric System Reliability and Protect the Environment," which was enacted into law as Public Law 2013, chapter 369, is corrected.

LD [1415](#) An Act To Authorize Two General Fund Bond Issues To Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities
[Public Law, Chapter 305](#)

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$85,000,000 in 2015 will be used for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities and equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, matching an estimated \$121,500,000 in 2015 in federal and other funds.

Carry-Over Bills

- LD [68](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Attract Business by Investing in High-speed Broadband Infrastructure
- LD [385](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Improvements to Facilities at the University of Maine System Campuses
- LD [426](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Address Sea Level Rise
- LD [628](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Transportation Infrastructure
- LD [747](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Assist in the Creation and Retention of Jobs and Improve Access to Higher Education in Maine
- LD [875](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Highways, Bridges, Ports, Railroads and Other Multimodal Facilities
- LD [931](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development for the University of Maine System
- LD [1110](#) An Act To Modernize Road User Fees
- LD [1315](#) An Act To Amend Maine's Restructuring Laws
- LD [1336](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maine's Community Colleges
- LD [1339](#) An Act To Provide Relief to Maine Ratepayers

Bills That Did Not Pass

- LD [45](#) An Act To Exempt Certain Capital Expenditures from the Maine Certificate of Need Act of 2002
- LD [209](#) An Act To Support Research and Development at a Marine Field Station at the University of Maine at Machias
- LD [244](#) An Act To Require the Use of Preapproved Subcontractors for Publicly Funded Construction Projects
- LD [706](#) Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Study Transportation Funding Reform
- LD [734](#) An Act To Repeal the Certificate of Need Requirement for Hospitals
- LD [901](#) An Act To Ensure Sustainable Infrastructure Funding
- LD [1036](#) An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs
- LD [1093](#) An Act Regarding the Municipalities to Which the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Applies
- LD [1120](#) An Act To Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
- LD [1191](#) An Act To Remove the Municipal Mandate To Enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
- LD [1200](#) An Act To Create a Civil Cause of Action for Intentional Interference with Business Operations
- LD [1221](#) An Act To Enhance Energy Cost Reduction and Facilitate Heating Alternatives in furtherance of the Omnibus Energy Act
- LD [1314](#) An Act To Establish Primary Energy Goals for the State
- LD [1329](#) An Act To Maximize the Benefits of Renewable Energy in Maine

Veto

LD [408](#) An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Changes in Sea Level