
Summary of the
127th Maine Legislature
2nd Regular Session

Prepared for:

American Council of Engineering Companies

All laws have an effective date of July 29, 2016, unless otherwise noted.



LD [1398](#) **An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses
[Public Law Chapter 498](#)**

\$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 Public Utilities Commission determines the allocation of disbursements based on an affected customer's proportion of their retail purchase of electricity as measured in kilowatt-hours for the prior calendar year. 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 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. Other than the \$1 to \$3 match, 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. The commission is required to include in their 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.

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. The remaining money will be allocated to measures that also increase energy efficiency. Measures to reduce the cost of residential heating will be available to low-income households. The trust is allowed to consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that lower peak capacity demand when promoting electricity savings.

LD [1568](#) **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 373: Financial and Technical Capacity Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection
[Resolve, Chapter 62](#)**

Legislative review of portions of Chapter 373: Financial and Technical Capacity Standards of the Site Location of Development Act are ordered. These regulations describe the scope of review of the Board in determining a developer's compliance with the "financial capacity" standard of the Site Location Law (38 M.R.S.A., Section 484(1)); the information which shall be submitted, when appropriate, within an application for approval; and, the terms and conditions which the Board may impose on the approval of an application to ensure compliance with the standard.

LD [1569](#) **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection
[Resolve, Chapter 63](#)**

Legislative review of portions of Chapter 373: Financial and Technical Capacity Standards of the Site Location of Development Act are ordered. These regulations describe the scope of review of the Board in determining a developer's compliance with the "financial capacity" standard of the Site Location Law (38 M.R.S.A., Section 484(1)); the information which shall be submitted, when appropriate, within an application for approval; and, the terms and conditions which the Board may impose on the approval of an application to ensure compliance with the standard.

LD [1570](#) **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 380: Long-term Construction Projects Under the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection
[Resolve, Chapter 64](#)**

Legislative review of Chapter 380: Long-term Construction Projects Under the Site Location of Development Act are ordered. These rules describe requirements associated with a planning permit, as provided for by 38 M.R.S.A. § 485-A(1-C), which identifies requirements for a long-term construction project that allow approval of development within a specified area and within specified parameters such as maximum area, and groundwater usage. This does not apply to metallic mineral mining or advanced exploration activities.

LD [1655](#) **An Act To Increase the Number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professionals in the State
[Public Law, Chapter 435](#)**

The Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program is created and administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Loans with varying interest rates will be provided to participating students (including high school seniors) depending on their future residency and employment:

- Loans bearing an interest rate of 0% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State and work in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics upon graduation.
- Loans bearing an interest rate of 5% annually will be available to students who remain in or return to the State upon graduation but are not employed in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- The maximum loan term is 5 years.

The Finance Authority of Maine must submit a report regarding the effectiveness of the program to the Education Committee by January 15th of the 5th year after the loan program begins awarding loans.

LD [1694](#) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities
[Public Law, Chapter 478](#)**

A bond, in the amount of \$100,000,000, will be used for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, if it is approved by voters during the November 2016. This bond will receive an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds.

Bills That Did Not Pass

- 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 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
- 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 Resolve, To Study Transportation Funding Reform
- LD 1298 An Act Relating to the Creation of Public-private Facilities and Infrastructure
- 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
- LD 1494 An Act To Revise Oil Spill Reporting Standards
- LD 1513 An Act To Clarify Laws Relating to Affiliate Ownership of Electric Generation
- LD 1578 An Act To Update Maine's Solid Waste Management Laws
- LD 1634 An Act To Provide Tax Revenue To Offset Transfers to the Maine Clean Election Fund
- LD 1656 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Loan Repayment Programs for Graduates in the Fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Veto

- LD 1579 An Act Regarding the Maine Clean Election Fund
- LD 1649 An Act To Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development