

Joint Standing on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Anticipated Workload for the 130th Legislature, Second Regular Session

Bills carried over in committee

1. [LD 170](#), An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation
2. [LD 318](#), An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals
3. [LD 337](#), An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology
4. [LD 634](#), An Act To Cap the Value of Contracts for Renewable Resources and Distributed Generation Resources
5. [LD 682](#), An Act To Ensure the Viability of the Northern Maine Electric Transmission Grid
6. [LD 697](#), An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents
7. [LD 1026](#), An Act To Update the Regulation of Public Utility Monopolies
8. [LD 1079](#), Resolve, To Review the Effects of the Deregulation of Maine Utilities
9. [LD 1107](#), An Act To Create Needed Broadband Infrastructure in Rural Maine through the Establishment of a Satellite-based Broadband Grant Program
10. [LD 1202](#), An Act To Establish a Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Program
11. [LD 1350](#), An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy
12. [LD 1511](#), An Act To Finance Distribution Investments at the Lowest Cost to Customers and To Encourage Utility Performance
13. [LD 1579](#), An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to 100 Percent Zero-emission Vehicles
14. [LD 1587](#), An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals An Act To Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of Nonessential Transmission Lines
15. [LD 1634](#), An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority

NOTE – [LD 245](#), An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts; [LD 551](#), An Act To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State; [LD 1554](#), An Act To Provide Climate Change Transition Assistance for Maine's Energy-intensive Businesses; and [LD 1555](#), An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State were carried over on the Special Appropriations Table

New bills approved by the Legislative Council that may be referred to EUT

1. LR 2122, Representative Berry - An Act To Prohibit a Regulated Utility from Disconnecting Service to a Designated Public Safety Facility without 60 Days' Advance Notice
2. LR 2161, President Jackson - An Act To Amend the Charter of the St. Francis Water District
3. LR 2275, President Jackson - An Act To Amend the Caribou Utilities District Charter To Include Broadband Services
4. LR 2293, Senator Vitelli - An Act To Support Municipal Broadband Infrastructure through Incentives and Competition
5. LR 2294, Representative Stover - An Act To Amend the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District
6. LR 2295, Senator Vitelli - An Act To Review Utility Rates
7. LR 2302, Senator Vitelli - Passed An Act To Facilitate Net Energy Generation Billing
8. LR 2305, Senator Lawrence - An Act To Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District
9. LR 2391, Representative Grohoski - An Act To Define "Discrete Electric Generating Facility"
10. LR 2473, Representative Cuddy - An Act To Ensure Maine Citizens Benefit from Renewable Energy Generation Projects by Establishing Job Quality and Hiring Standards

Government Evaluation Act review (Begin review by February 1st; report must be submitted by March 15th)

- Public Utilities Commission (Report received)

Quasi-Independent State Entities review (Begin process by March 1st – [5 MRSA § 12023\(3\)](#))

- ConnectME Authority
- Efficiency Maine Trust
- Maine Connectivity Authority*
- Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency

*NOTE – The committee may want to consider whether to conduct this review next session since the Maine Connectivity Authority is still in the early stages of its formation and may not have adopted all the policies that are considered during this review process

Expected report backs related to laws enacted in the First Regular and Special Session with authority to report out committee bills

1. [Public Law 2021, chapter 101](#) (LD 143) requires the Public Utilities Commission to provide to the committee by January 15, 2022 any information of decisions made in relation to Docket No. 2021-00061.
2. [Public Law 2021, chapter 318](#) (LD 251) requires both the commission and the Public Advocate to submit to the committee by January 15, 2022 initial calculations related to the portion of the assessment applicable to investor-owned utilities and consumer-owned utilities within each category of public utility that would be allocated to each utility based on a 3-year rolling average of revenue reported by the utility.
3. [Public Law 2021, chapter 327](#) (LD 336) requires the commission, in consultation with the Public Advocate and Governor's Energy Office, to submit to the committee by February 1, 2022 a report regarding technology, location and other options for the creation of transmission infrastructure related to the deployment of offshore wind energy generation in the Gulf of Maine.
4. [Public Law 2021, chapter 402](#) (LD 347) requires the commission, on or before February 15, 2022, to submit a report to the committee regarding its findings from an inquiry required by this law to review alternative rate structures to support electric vehicle charging stations for nonresidential applications, and any recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the establishment of alternative rate structures to support electric vehicle charging stations for nonresidential applications.
5. [Public Law 2021, chapter 298](#) (LD 528) requires the commission, by February 1, 2022, to submit a report on the feasibility and possible benefits of a power-to-fuel pilot program that would result in the development of power-to-fuel projects utilizing renewable energy. The report must also include an estimation of the ratepayer impacts of a pilot program, a comparison on how those ratepayer impacts compare to other types of energy storage technologies and a review of measures other states have taken to facilitate the development of energy storage and whether those measures were successful at promoting energy storage, minimizing ratepayer impacts and promoting a diversification of energy storage technologies.

This law also requires the Governor's Energy Office to conduct an energy storage market assessment study and submit a report to the committee on that study by March 1, 2022.

6. [Public Law 2021, chapter 390](#) (LD 936) requires the Governor's Energy Office in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to consider various distributed generation project programs to be implemented between 2024 and 2029 and the need for improved grid planning (More details on this process and report requirements are included in the "Summaries of Enacted Laws" document). It requires an interim report to be submitted by January 1, 2022 to the committee that identifies issues that need further consideration or require additional resources including funding to complete and that includes recommendations and any proposed legislation to implement those recommendations that are supported by a majority of stakeholders (Note that this also requires a final report to be submitted to the committee by January 1, 2023).

7. [Resolve 2021, chapter 29](#) (LD 1306) directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communications Bureau to research and review protocols and procedures necessary to ensure the delivery of crisis response services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and to submit a report on or before February 1, 2022 to the committee outlining necessary protocols and procedures and including any recommendations needed to implement those protocols and procedures.
8. [Public Law 2021, chapter 364](#) (LD 1484) directs the Maine Connectivity Authority, in consultation with the ConnectMaine Authority, to review the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes pertaining to each entity and develop recommendations for any necessary changes to those provisions to facilitate the oversight of the ConnectMaine Authority by the Maine Connectivity Authority and any other recommendations. The Maine Connectivity Authority is directed to submit such recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the committee on or before January 15, 2022.
9. [Resolve 2021, chapter 63](#) (LD 1666) requires the commission to submit a report, by January 31, 2022, to the committee that includes the results of the evaluation on the feasibility of the commission establishing and operating a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform that will provide natural gas and electric customers with safe, secure access to information about their usage and will allow for the aggregation of community-level data and the removal of personally identifiable information from that data.
10. [Public Law 2021, chapter 279](#) (LD 1682) requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to submit to the committee by February 15, 2022 a report that includes any recommendations regarding definitions and equity considerations, including any suggested legislation.

Other reports that provide the authority to report out a committee bill

1. [Public Law 2019, chapter 478, sec. A-5](#) requires the commission by December 1, 2021 to submit a report on the status of metering and billing system capabilities for investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the state. The report must include capabilities of systems to reliably offer time-differentiated rates for delivery and supply of energy; the commission's level of confidence in metering and billing systems to provide accurate information to utilities, consumers and the commission; the capacity of systems to accommodate rates for bidirectional flow of power for customers with distributed energy resources; and the degree to which systems are being used to achieve the smart grid policy goals under Title 35-A, section 3143. The commission must report on any changes to rates or rules or other changes the commission intends to adopt to increase the effectiveness of systems under this paragraph and may make recommendations.

Annual reports that provide the authority to report out a committee bill

1. ConnectMaine Authority: [35-A MRSA §9208](#) & [\(Resolve 2019, chapter 33\)](#) - Report on the activities, investments, market conditions and budget of the ConnectMaine Authority. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Authority must include in its annual report information outlining the progress of the Authority in meeting the goals of its Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service developed pursuant to Title 35-A, section 9218, including but not limited to an explanation of the measures that the Authority has taken to build partnerships with private businesses and state, county and municipal planning organizations and coordinate and communicate with the Department of Transportation in order to facilitate the installation of broadband infrastructure along roadways.

2. Governor's Energy Office Annual Report: (Due 1/15) The report must describe the activities of the office during the previous calendar year, the state's progress in implementation of the state energy plan and an accounting of the office's resources devoted to its various duties, including that portion of its resources devoted to activities in support of or reasonably related to programs or activities of the Efficiency Maine Trust. The EUT Committee shall make any recommendations to the AFA Committee with regard to any proposed allocation of the Efficiency Maine Trust funds to support the Governor's Energy Office.
3. Efficiency Maine Trust Biannual Report: (Due 1/30 and 7/30) The report must include the Trust's revenues and program expenses for the current fiscal year and program budgets for the next fiscal year for all the Trust's funds and programs, whether or not subject to legislative allocation. The report must indicate any significant departures from the triennial plan or an updated plan.
4. Review of Interim Spent Fuel Oversight and Funding: (Due 2/15) Report on review of oversight activities and specific recommendations regarding funding requirements for the next calendar year. (DHHS)
5. RGGI, Carbon Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency: (Due 3/15) Report of the DEP and the Efficiency Maine Trust on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from carbon dioxide units; conservation programs; carbon dioxide emissions offset projects; improvements on overall carbon dioxide emissions and energy efficiency from emitting sources; the maximization of savings through systemic energy improvements; research and support of new carbon dioxide offset allowance categories for development; management and cost-effectiveness of RGGI Trust Fund energy conservation and carbon reduction programs; extent to which funds from the RGGI Trust Fund serve all T&D customer classes; RGGI Trust Fund revenues and expenditures; and any proposed changes to the RGGI cap-and-trade program.