

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 307, An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology

Summary: As amended, the bill establishes a council to review the impacts of all data centers and includes a moratorium on data centers 20mw or larger until September 2027.

Implications: Without greater representation from the business community, it risks missing important real-world information in its review and recommendations. The moratorium would also send a signal to the business community that Maine is not welcoming data center development, despite having not yet had a thorough understanding of the energy, environmental, and economic impacts of data centers.

LD 838, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Options for Public Financing of Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure, Generation Projects and Energy Storage

Projects Status: Senate Calendar Item 7-21

Previous Legislative Action: Maj. Report Accepted (21-14) and Senate Passed To Be Engrossed As Amended By Committee Amendment “A”, House Accepted Maj. Report (73-67) and Passed To Be Engrossed As Amended By Committee Amendment “A” in Concurrence

Summary: As amended, the bill would set up a council to study public financing of electric transmission and distribution infrastructure. **Implications:** Could lead to a shift in how projects are planned and financed.

LD 2038, An Act to Require Maine Transmission and Distribution Utility Participation in a Regional Transmission Organization (EMERGENCY)

Status: House Calendar 1-2 (In Non-Con)

Past Legislative Action: Passed To Be Engrossed As Amended By Committee “A” As Amended By Senate Amendment “A”

Summary: As amended by the committee, it makes it mandatory for transmission and distribution utilities to participate in a regional transmission organization with the exception of consumer-owned utilities and those located in an area of the State in which

the retail electricity market is administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine. The Senate Amendment removes the emergency.

Implications: It would mandate RTO participation potentially reducing utilities' flexibility, eliminating their eligibility for a federal return-on-equity incentive, and placing them at a competitive financial disadvantage relative to utilities in other states.