

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 566, "Joint Order to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission on Electric Energy Production, Demand and Cost"

Amend the order by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Joint Order Directing a Subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy to Undertake a Study of the Electric Industry'

Further amend the order by striking out everything from the first indented paragraph to the end and inserting in its place the following:

'ORDERED, the House concurring, that a subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, consisting of no more than 10 members jointly chosen by the House and Senate chairs of the committee, be directed to conduct a study of the electric industry as follows.

1. Duties; first meeting. The subcommittee shall monitor and study developments in the Maine electric energy market since deregulation and report to the Legislature its findings and any recommendations. In conducting the study, the subcommittee shall consider the use of forums such as those used by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy during the development of the electric industry restructuring legislation in 1997. The chairs of the subcommittee shall call the first meeting no later than June 1, 2001. In conducting the study, the subcommittee shall consider and, to the extent it finds useful and feasible,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 566

examine the following:

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A. Recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rulings that may negatively affect Maine consumers, including the ruling imposing a deficiency charge relating to installed generation capability or ICAP;

B. The role and purpose of the standard offer service in the competitive market and what Maine consumers may expect for standard offer prices;

C. The likelihood and effects of any capacity or energy shortfalls or reduced supply diversity in the markets affecting Maine;

D. The status of competition in the market and the role and status of energy conservation and the effects on customer bills;

E. The role of and opportunity to create incentives for transmission and distribution utilities to promote state policies such as those relating to energy conservation, renewable energy, the environment and low-income assistance;

F. Whether anticompetitive behavior is occurring or may be occurring in the market and whether and how it may be addressed;

G. The design and operation of the New England regional market and of any regional transmission organization that may be created and how these may affect consumers;

H. The design and operation of the market in those portions of the State directly connected to the Maritimes control area;

I. The interfaces and interactions between and among the various electric industry participants and whether there are any aspects of those interfaces or interactions that may be negatively affecting the competitive market;

J. The status of aggregation, including aggregation by counties, and how aggregation may be further developed to benefit consumers; and

K. Any other matters that the subcommittee believes should be examined in the context of this study.

2. Staff assistance. The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide staffing assistance to the subcommittee.

3. **Compensation.** Members of the subcommittee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and to receive reimbursement for travel and other expenses for attendance at authorized meetings of the subcommittee.

4. **Report; authority to report out legislation.** The subcommittee shall report its findings together with any recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than January 1, 2002. The Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy may report out legislation related to the subject of the study to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the joint order. This amendment directs a subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy to conduct a study of the electric industry.