

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 669

S.P. 233

In Senate, February 14, 2003

An Act To Strengthen the Energy Resources Council

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HALL of Lincoln.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3327, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 630, §1, is amended to read:

3. Quarterly meetings; staff. The council shall meet at least quarterly. The council shall prepare a work program for each year establishing priorities among its efforts. The State Planning Office, within the Executive Department, shall provide staff support funded from the conservation program fund established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3211-A. ~~Each member of the council shall enter into an agreement with the State Planning Office to share in the cost of providing the staff support.~~

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3211-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 624, §4, is amended to read:

5. Conservation program fund. The commission shall establish a conservation program fund to be used solely for conservation programs and to provide, as needed, up to \$200,000 per fiscal year to support the Energy Resources Council established under Title 5, section 3327.

A. The commission shall deposit all assessments collected pursuant to this section, other than funds deposited in the administration fund, into the program fund.

B. Any interest earned on funds in the program fund must be credited to the program fund.

C. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the program fund to be used for conservation programs.

D. The commission may apply for and receive grants from state, federal and private sources for deposit in the program fund and also may deposit in the program fund any grants or other funds received by or from any entity with which the commission has an agreement or contract pursuant to this section if the commission determines that receipt of those funds would be consistent with the purposes of this section. If the commission receives any funds pursuant to this paragraph, it shall establish a separate account within the program fund to receive the funds and shall keep those funds and any interest earned on those funds segregated from other funds in the program fund.

Sec. 3. Comprehensive energy review and report. In addition to its other responsibilities, the Energy Resources Council established

2 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3327 shall
3 undertake a comprehensive review of state energy and
4 energy-related policy for fiscal year 2003-04 and prepare and
5 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Joint
6 Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than December
7 1, 2003. In developing its recommendations the council shall
8 seek to exploit the links between energy policy and
9 environmental, transportation and economic development policy.
10 As it finds appropriate, the council shall invite comments from
11 legislative committees of jurisdiction, stakeholders and the
12 public. The council shall hold at least 2 public hearings on
13 draft findings and recommendations prior to preparing its final
14 draft.

15 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following
16 appropriations and allocations are made.

17 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

18 **State Planning Office**

19 Initiative: Allocates funds from the conservation program fund
20 established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,
21 section 3211-A, subsection 5 for a full-time Policy Development
22 Specialist position to provide staffing for the Energy Resources
23 Council.
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26	Other Special Revenue Funds	2003-04	2004-05
27	Positions - Legislative Count	(1.000)	(1.000)
28	Positions - FTE Count	(0.000)	(0.000)
29	Personal Services	\$52,560	\$68,751
30	All Other	3,750	5,000
31	Other Special Revenue Funds Total	<u>\$56,310</u>	<u>\$73,751</u>

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33 **SUMMARY**

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35 This bill requires the Energy Resources Council to undertake
36 a comprehensive review of state energy and energy-related policy
37 and prepare and submit a report of its findings and
38 recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and
39 Energy by December 1, 2003. The bill also provides funding from
40 the conservation program fund established pursuant to the Maine
41 Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3211-A, subsection 5 to
42 provide staff for the council.
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