

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 994

S.P. 284

In Senate, February 26, 2019

**Resolve, To Require the Approval by the Public Utilities
Commission of a Proposal for a Long-term Contract for Deep-water
Offshore Wind Energy**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WOODSOME of York.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** in 2010, the 124th Legislature enacted An Act To Implement the
4 Recommendations of the Governor's Ocean Energy Task Force, Public Law 2009,
5 chapter 615; and

6 **Whereas,** Public Law 2009, chapter 615, Part A, section 6 directed the Public
7 Utilities Commission, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section
8 3210-C, to conduct a competitive solicitation for proposals for long-term contracts to
9 supply installed capacity and associated renewable energy and renewable energy credits
10 from one or more deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects or tidal energy
11 demonstration projects; and

12 **Whereas,** in July 2013, the Public Utilities Commission issued a supplemental
13 request for proposals for long-term contracts for deep-water offshore wind energy pilot
14 projects; and

15 **Whereas,** in August 2013, Maine Aqua Ventus I, GP, LLC, a partnership led by the
16 University of Maine System, submitted a proposal to the Public Utilities Commission in
17 response to the request for proposals; and

18 **Whereas,** the Public Utilities Commission evaluated the Maine Aqua Ventus
19 proposal and, by orders issued in February 2014, selected Maine Aqua Ventus as the
20 seller to transfer transmission and distribution capacity and associated energy produced
21 by its deep-water offshore wind energy pilot project, subject to certain terms and
22 conditions; and

23 **Whereas,** consistent with the terms and conditions set forth by the Public Utilities
24 Commission in its February 2014 orders, Maine Aqua Ventus and Central Maine Power
25 Company negotiated and drafted a long-term contract for capacity and associated energy
26 following a series of meetings involving Maine Aqua Ventus, Central Maine Power
27 Company and commission staff and legal counsel and filed the final draft with the Public
28 Utilities Commission in December 2017; and

29 **Whereas,** in January 2018, the Public Utilities Commission delayed the contract's
30 approval and solicited public comment on whether to reopen the request for proposals;
31 and

32 **Whereas,** in June 2018, the Public Utilities Commission voted to not address the
33 long-term contract between Maine Aqua Ventus and Central Maine Power Company filed
34 with the commission in December 2017; and

35 **Whereas,** the Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the State to approve
36 the December 2017 long-term contract between Maine Aqua Ventus and Central Maine
37 Power Company so that the deep-water offshore wind energy pilot project may move
38 forward and generate the benefits to the State and its people previously sought by the
39 Legislature; and

