

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 197

S.P. 84

In Senate, January 14, 2025

**Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study
Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the
State**

(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 CYRWAY of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Senator: FARRIN of Somerset, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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,** the Governor's Energy Office needs sufficient time to conduct the study
4 directed by this legislation and must commence its work as soon as possible; and

5 **Whereas,** the matters to be studied by the office implicate critical and pressing issues
6 related to the effects of climate change on the State, its communities and its environment
7 and natural resources; and

8 **Whereas,** the results of this study could have implications for electric transmission
9 infrastructure procurements in the near future; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 **Sec. 1. Study of future electric transmission infrastructure needs.**

15 **Resolved:** That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office,"
16 shall conduct a study of matters related to the State's future electric transmission
17 infrastructure needs. The study must include a review of:

18 1. Existing processes for the siting and permitting of new and upgraded electric
19 transmission infrastructure in the State, including opportunities for public engagement and
20 methods for efficiently meeting permitting or regulatory requirements;

21 2. Best practices related to electric transmission planning, siting, permitting and
22 community engagement from other states or regions, including consideration of different
23 types of state siting authorities and consideration of the potential for the sharing of electric
24 transmission infrastructure costs with other states;

25 3. Existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to
26 integrate new renewable resources as well as to ensure reliability, improve market
27 efficiency or support the achievement of the State's policy goals, including the goals
28 established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection
29 1-A; Title 35-A, section 3404; Title 35-A, chapter 38; and Title 38, section 576-A;

30 4. Types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights-
31 of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State, including colocation
32 with transportation, electric transmission and railway rights-of-way; and

33 5. Existing and emerging technology and construction methods, such as grid-enhancing
34 technologies, advanced conductors and so-called strategic undergrounding, including a
35 cost-benefit analysis comparing buried high-voltage direct current lines with aerial high-
36 voltage alternating current lines and aerial high-voltage direct current lines.

37 **Sec. 2. Stakeholder coordination. Resolved:** That the office shall coordinate
38 with state agencies involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric transmission
39 infrastructure and solicit information from a stakeholder group to assist in conducting the
40 study under section 1. The office shall hold at least one meeting with the stakeholder group,
41 which must include, but is not limited to:

42 1. A representative of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future;

