

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/19/25

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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****132ND LEGISLATURE****FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 200, L.D. 300, "Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State"

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

'Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Governor's Energy Office to conduct studies. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall conduct studies as directed by this resolve in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency to support the development of a balanced portfolio of energy sources in the State.

Sec. 2. Study; hydroelectric power facilities and energy storage. Resolved: That the office shall conduct a study reviewing the current operation of and opportunities for the expansion of hydroelectric power and energy storage in the State for the purpose of evaluating methods to revitalize the hydroelectric power industry while taking into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions associated with such generation and storage. In conducting this study, the office shall:

1. Review the findings of any previous studies of hydroelectric power facilities in the State, including, but not limited to, the February 2015 report prepared for the office and titled "Maine Hydropower Study," to identify dam sites within the State that have the greatest potential to be efficiently expanded or upgraded;

2. Review new technologies being used in hydroelectric power facilities in other states and evaluate whether those technologies could be used in this State to improve or expand the hydroelectric power industry through the expansion or upgrading of the dam sites identified under subsection 1. In carrying out this review, the office shall consult with at

1 least one hydroelectric power facility in Alaska and at least one hydroelectric power facility
 2 in each of 2 other states that the office determines has similar geographic and topographical
 3 characteristics to Maine; and

4 3. Identify locations within the State that may be suitable for the development of
 5 pumped storage hydropower systems because of geographic, technical and economic
 6 factors and evaluate the existing barriers to establishing such hydroelectric energy storage
 7 systems.

8 **Sec. 3. Study; geothermal systems. Resolved:** That the office shall conduct a
 9 study for the purpose of evaluating the potential for the development of a geothermal power
 10 plant or other geothermal power plant generation system or space heating and cooling
 11 system in this State based on an assessment of geographic, technical and economic factors.
 12 For the purposes of this resolve, "geothermal power plant" means a power plant that uses
 13 heat from the earth to generate electricity or thermal energy for heating or cooling. The
 14 study must summarize research and analysis of opportunities for the development of
 15 geothermal systems in the State while taking into consideration the greenhouse gas
 16 emissions associated with such systems. The office is not required to include specific cost
 17 data or a technical economic assessment of individual sites in the study. In conducting this
 18 study, the office shall:

19 1. Consult with persons with expertise in the geologic engineering field, including
 20 persons employed by State Government or Federal Government, regarding the feasibility
 21 of establishing a geothermal power plant in the State. Using the existing resources of the
 22 office, the office may seek a formal opinion or report from such persons. If the office
 23 concludes, as a result of the office's consultation, that a geothermal power plant could be
 24 developed in the State in a cost-effective way, as determined by the office, the office shall
 25 develop recommendations for the development of a geothermal power plant in the State;
 26 and

27 2. Assess the potential for developing district geothermal systems:

28 A. On brownfield sites in the State, as determined by the office in consultation with the
 29 Department of Environmental Protection; and

30 B. At state-owned facilities or on state-owned properties.

31 **Sec. 4. Reports. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2027, the office shall
 32 submit a report based on each study under this resolve, including any recommendations, to
 33 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.
 34 The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the reports to the 133rd
 35 Legislature in 2027.'

36 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
 37 section number to read consecutively.

38 SUMMARY

39 This amendment replaces the resolve and changes the title. The amendment requires
 40 the Governor's Energy Office to conduct studies in consultation with the Public Utilities
 41 Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Emergency
 42 Management Agency within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
 43 Management.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 200, L.D. 300

1 The amendment directs the office to conduct a study reviewing the current operation
2 of and opportunities for the expansion of hydroelectric power and energy storage in the
3 State for the purpose of evaluating methods to revitalize the hydroelectric power industry.
4 The study must include a review of findings of any previous studies of hydroelectric power
5 facilities in this State; a review of new technologies being used in hydroelectric power
6 facilities; consultation with hydroelectric power facilities in 3 other states; and
7 identification of locations in the State that may be suitable for the development of pumped
8 storage hydropower systems.

9 The amendment directs the office to conduct a study for the purpose of evaluating the
10 potential for the development of a geothermal power plant or other geothermal power
11 generation system or space heating and cooling system in the State. In conducting the study,
12 the office must consult with persons with expertise in the geologic engineering field
13 regarding the feasibility of establishing a geothermal power plant in the State and must
14 assess the potential for developing district geothermal systems on brownfield sites or state-
15 owned properties or at state-owned facilities.

16 The office must submit reports based on both studies to the joint standing committee
17 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters by January 15, 2027. Both studies
18 must take into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation
19 and storage of energy sources.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 04/30/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 300

LR 481(02)

Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment ^A (H-201)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund
Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the agencies referenced in this bill resulting from its provisions are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources