

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 343

H.P. 243

House of Representatives, February 3, 2025

**An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek
Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in
the State**

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 30, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAUL of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, CAMPBELL of Orrington,
DRINKWATER of Milford, FOSTER of Dexter, HYMES of Waldo, MCINTYRE of Lowell,
SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §124** is enacted to read:

3 **§124. Requests for proposals for establishment of small modular nuclear reactor**

4 **1. Small modular nuclear reactor or modular reactor defined.** As used in this
5 section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "small modular nuclear reactor" or
6 "modular reactor" means a nuclear reactor that:

7 A. Has a rated generating capacity of no more than 350 megawatts;

8 B. Is capable of being constructed and operated at a single site on its own or in
9 combination with one or more nuclear reactors; and

10 C. Is required to be licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

11 **2. Requests for proposals for information.** By October 1st of each year, the
12 commission shall issue a request for proposals soliciting informational bids regarding the
13 establishment of a small modular nuclear reactor in the State. The informational bids must
14 include the costs of establishing a modular reactor in the State, either through manufacture
15 on site or transport into the State, the proposed location of a modular reactor, the time
16 needed to establish a modular reactor in the State, the annual operational costs of a modular
17 reactor and any other information the commission determines necessary. The bids are not
18 binding on the State or the person submitting the bid but may be used to inform and develop
19 a contract for the establishment of a modular reactor in the State.

20 **3. Annual report.** Beginning in 2026, by January 15th annually, the commission shall
21 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy
22 and utility matters a report regarding the informational bids received by the commission
23 pursuant to its requests for proposals made pursuant to subsection 2. The joint standing
24 committee may report out legislation based on the report in the same legislative session in
25 which the report is received.

26 **4. Termination.** This section is repealed when the State accepts a bid for the
27 establishment of a small modular nuclear reactor. The commission shall notify the Revisor
28 of Statutes when the State accepts a bid for the establishment of a small modular nuclear
29 reactor.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually issue a request for
32 informational bids for the establishment in the State of a small modular nuclear reactor,
33 which is a nuclear reactor that has a rated generating capacity of no more than 350
34 megawatts, is capable of being constructed and operated at a single site on its own or in
35 combination with one or more nuclear reactors and is required to be licensed by the United
36 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The requests are for information only, including
37 the timing for establishing a modular reactor and the cost, location and annual operating
38 costs of a modular reactor, and are not binding on the State or the person submitting the
39 information but may be used in developing a contract. The commission is required to make
40 an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
41 energy and utility matters detailing the informational bids received. The provisions of this
42 legislation are repealed when the State accepts a bid for the establishment of a small

1 modular nuclear reactor. The commission is required to notify the Revisor of Statutes when
2 the State accepts a bid for the establishment of a small modular nuclear reactor.