

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1240

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H.P. 815

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

### **An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process**

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Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered  
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3146**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 702, §7, is amended to read:

### **§3146. Climate change protection plan**

No later than ~~December 31, 2023~~ May 1, 2027, and every ~~3~~ 5 years thereafter, a transmission and distribution utility shall submit to the commission a 10-year plan that includes specific actions for addressing the expected effects of climate change on the utility's assets needed to transmit and distribute electricity to its customers. The commission shall provide a process to allow for the input from interested parties on the transmission and distribution utility's plan. The commission may use the plan and the input received from interested parties in rate cases or other proceedings involving the transmission and distribution utility.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3148, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 553, §1, is amended to read:

**2. Periodic review.** Beginning January 15, ~~2025~~ 2027, and every 5 years thereafter, the commission shall conduct a review or update a previous review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review or update a previous review of available grid-enhancing technology that could be implemented by a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report describing the grid-enhancing technology identified in the review. The commission may file information or the report for use in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding required pursuant to section 3147, subsection 2.

**Sec. 3. 2027 review of available grid-enhancing technology.** The review conducted in 2027 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3148, subsection 2 must update the review conducted in 2025 by the Public Utilities Commission or a consultant of the commission of available grid-enhancing technology that could be implemented by a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State.

## SUMMARY

This bill adjusts the time frame for the ongoing submission dates for certain reviews and reports required of transmission and distribution utilities and the Public Utilities Commission to align with the integrated grid planning process required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3147.

The bill requires that, beginning May 1, 2027, and every 5 years thereafter, instead of every 3 years as in current law, a transmission and distribution utility is required to submit a 10-year plan that includes specific actions for addressing the expected effects of climate change on the utility's assets needed to transmit and distribute electricity to its customers.

Current law requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a review, or contract with a consultant to conduct a review, related to available grid-enhancing technology every 5 years beginning in 2025. The bill adjusts the schedule of reviews by requiring a review in 2027, and then every 5 years thereafter. The review conducted in 2027 must update the

1 review conducted in 2025. The bill also adds language specifying that a review conducted  
2 pursuant to this provision of law may update an earlier review.