

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1251

H.P. 826

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts

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 WADSWORTH of Hiram.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, FREDETTE of Newport, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner.

Sec. 1. Requests for information; negotiation of terms by Public Utilities Commission. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission, after consultation with the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust, shall:

1. Issue a request for information to appropriate stakeholders, organizations or other entities identified by the commission for the following information:

A. Whether there are any reasonable opportunities for the commission to explore and consider engaging in the execution of an energy cost reduction contract or a physical energy storage contract in accordance with the principles of beneficial electrification and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 19; and

B. Identification of existing and near-term replacement energy sources for natural gas in commercial and industrial uses, including when the replacement energy sources are expected to be available, the cost of those replacement energy sources and the steps needed to develop a cost-effective and reliable supply of such replacement energy sources; and

2. Contact every gas utility and natural gas pipeline utility in the State and every state or province adjacent to this State to negotiate favorable terms for one or more energy cost reduction contracts, physical energy storage contracts or such other arrangements as the commission may find necessary or appropriate to reduce the costs of energy in the State and to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By December 3, 2025, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes a summary of the responses the commission received from its request for information under subsection 1, any actions the commission has taken, if any, as a result of the information submitted by respondents to the commission's request for information and a summary of actions taken by the commission under subsection 2. The committee may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Public Utilities Commission to:

1. Issue a request for information after consultation with the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust regarding reasonable opportunities for the commission to explore and consider engaging in the execution of an energy cost reduction contract or a physical energy storage contract. The commission's request for information must also seek identification of existing and near-term replacement energy sources for natural gas in commercial and industrial uses, including when the replacement energy sources are expected to be available, the cost of those replacement energy sources and the steps needed to develop a cost-effective and reliable supply of such replacement energy sources; and

2. Contact every gas utility and natural gas pipeline utility in the State and every state or province adjacent to this State to negotiate favorable terms for one or more energy cost reduction contracts, physical energy storage contracts or such other arrangements as the commission may find necessary or appropriate to reduce the costs of energy in the State and to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1 The commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy,
2 Utilities and Technology by December 3, 2025 that includes a summary of the responses
3 the commission received from its request for information, any actions taken by the
4 commission as a result of the information received and a summary of actions taken by the
5 commission to negotiate favorable terms for one or more energy cost reduction contracts,
6 physical energy storage contracts or other arrangements.