

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

H. P. No. 1279

H. D. No. 513

House of Representatives, April 3, 1925.

Reported by Mr. Burnham from Committee on Public Utilities, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Giving Additional Powers to the Public Utilities
Commission.

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

Chapter fifty-five of the revised statutes is hereby amended
2 by adding after section eight thereof, the following sections :

‘Sect. 9. The commission shall collect information relat-
2 ing to the water powers of the state, the flow of rivers and
3 their drainage area, the location, nature and size of the lakes
4 and ponds in the state and their respective value and capacity
5 as storage reservoirs, and such other hydrographic data as
6 they may deem of value in devising the best methods for
7 the improvement of the natural storage basins of the state,
8 and the creation of new storage reservoirs, with a view to

9 conserving and increasing the capacity of the water powers
10 of the state.

Sect. 10. The commission may confer with the director
2 or the representative of the United States geological survey
3 and accept its cooperation in the prosecution of hydro-
4 graphic and geological surveys, and the preparation of a
5 contour topographic survey and map of the state.

Sect. 11. Every person, firm or corporation before com-
2 mencing the erection of a dam for the purpose of develop-
3 ing any water power in this state, or the creation or im-
4 provement of a water storage basin or reservoir for the
5 purpose of controlling the waters of any of the lakes or
6 rivers of the state, shall file with said commission for its
7 information and use copies of plans for the construction of
8 any such dam or storage basin or reservoir, and a statement
9 giving the location, height and nature of the proposed dam
10 and appurtenant structures and the estimated power to be
11 developed thereby; and in case a dam is to be constructed
12 solely for the purpose of water storage and not for the de-
13 velopment of a water power at its site, plans and statements
14 shall be filed with the commission showing the extent of the
15 land to be flowed, the estimated number of cubic feet of
16 water that may be stored and the estimated effect upon the
17 flow of the stream or streams to be affected thereby.

Sect. 12. The commission shall publish in its biennial
2 report an account of its operations and include such data
3 as it may deem advisable bearing on the water powers and

4 water resources of the state; and may report upon a com-
5 prehensive and practical plan for the improvement and cre-
6 ation of such water storage basins and reservoirs as will
7 tend to develop and conserve the water powers of the state.
8 The commission may also report so far as its investigations
9 will permit on the development of the water powers of the
10 state with reference to the general plan proposed so that
11 the legislature may have before it a comprehensive sum-
12 mary of the possibilities that lie in the development of the
13 water powers of the state, as a natural resource and the
14 necessary steps that should be taken by the state to further
15 increase and conserve them.

Sect. 13. So far as any proposed plan devised by the
2 commission for the improvement and increase of water stor-
3 age basins or reservoirs shall include the construction of
4 a dam or dams upon or at the head waters of any river or
5 water course, the commission shall ascertain and report as
6 nearly as may be the water storage capacity in cubic feet
7 of the reservoir to be created, the recorded rainfall on the
8 watershed above such proposed dam, and the maximum,
9 minimum and average flow of water per second in cubic
10 feet during each month in the year in said river or water
11 course. They shall as nearly as practicable estimate the
12 increased power that would be developed by such proposed
13 dam in the rivers or streams to be affected thereby.

Sect. 14. The public utilities commission is hereby au-
2 thorized and directed to take possession of all records, maps,

3 papers, instruments and property that were by it trans-
4 ferred to the Maine water power commission by authority
5 of chapter one hundred and thirty-two of the public laws
6 of nineteen hundred and nineteen, and also all records, maps
7 and papers that said Maine water power commission has
8 since compiled and collected in carrying out the provisions
9 of said chapter one hundred and thirty-two.

Sect. 15. Chapter one hundred and thirty-two of the pub-
2 lic laws of nineteen hundred and nineteen and chapter two
3 hundred and three of the public laws of nineteen hundred
4 and twenty-one are hereby repealed.'