

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*Grants-in-Aid! Retention of Title to Acquired Property*

## STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date February 28, 1977

Gary Dawbin, Resource Economist

Dept. Office of Energy Resources

From Cabanne Howard, Assistant

Dept. Attorney General

Subject Energy R & D Grants; Fees for State Documents.

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This is in response to your memorandum of February 16th asking several questions with regard to energy research and development grants.

Your first question is whether, if the Office of Energy Resources is to fund an energy project, it is obliged by law to retain any kind of title in the equipment purchased with such a grant or to retain an interest in any patents or copyrights which may be connected with the project. The answer to this is that there is nothing in Maine law requiring the Office to retain such interests. I understand, however, that the projects may be funded with federal money, so I would suggest that you review the documents by which such money was transmitted to the Office, to see whether there are conditions with regard to title, patents, or copyrights provided therein.

Your second question was whether the Office may charge a fee to non-residents for copies of the Maine Comprehensive Energy Plan. Since you advised me on the phone that the costs of the production of this Plan were entirely paid with federal money, I would think that you should not treat non-residents any differently from residents. Thus, if a fee is necessary to defray expenses, I would suggest that it be imposed on all purchasers equally. The only way in which Maine residents could be given a break on acquiring this document would be if they were contributing through their taxes to its production.