

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ELECTIONS - 1980  
(Sept.)

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AUGUSTA, MAINE

## *Initiated Bill*

In Accordance with an Initiated Petition Presented  
to the 109th Legislature at the  
Second Regular Session

### **Referendum Question**

Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by  
Means of Nuclear Fission.

(Including a Brief Explanatory Statement by the  
Attorney General as to Intent and Content)



To be Voted Upon at the Special Election,  
Tuesday, September 23, 1980

RODNEY S. QUINN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Appropriation 1060.1250

AUG 25 1980

## STATE OF MAINE

To the 109th Legislature of the State of Maine:

In accordance with Section 18 of Article IV, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine, the undersigned electors of the State of Maine, qualified to vote for Governor, residing in said State, whose names have been certified, hereby respectfully propose to the Legislature for its consideration the following entitled bill: *AN ACT to Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by Means of Nuclear Fission*. The full text of said Act is printed on pages one and two of this petition.

The undersigned electors further request that should the Legislature not enact said measure without change, that said measure be referred to the People at a Special Election, ordered by proclamation of the Governor, to be held not less than four nor more than six months after such proclamation.

## STATE OF MAINE

### IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by Means of Nuclear Fission

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 4, sub-c. 11 is enacted to read:

#### SUBCHAPTER 11

#### NUCLEAR FISSION CONTROL ACT

#### §260. Title

This Subchapter shall be known as the Nuclear Fission Control Act.

#### §261. Policy and Purpose

The people of the State of Maine declare:

- A. That the Generation of electric power at nuclear fission thermal power plants presents an inherent and unreasonable risk of economic, physical and mental harm to the people of the State of Maine;
- B. That the magnitude of risk inherent in the continued or expanded operation of nuclear fission power plants substantially exceeds the degree of risk attending the production of electric power by alternative energy technologies;
- C. That the construction and operation of nuclear fission power plants has been premature in the face of a technology which has not adequately resolved the issues of real cost; radioactive waste disposal; low-level radioactive emissions; plant security; plant decommissioning; fuel-rod reprocessing; air pollution; transportation of radioactive by-products; and evacuation.

#### §262. Prohibition

The generation of electric power by nuclear fission thermal power plants in the State of Maine is hereby prohibited.

#### §263. Application

This Subchapter shall apply to the generation of power at existing as well as proposed nuclear power plant facilities.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this legislation is to protect the economic, physical and mental interests of the people of the State of Maine from *per se* unreasonable risks which presently attend the process of nuclear fission due to deficient technology and planning.

State of Maine

### Proclamation

WHEREAS, written petitions bearing the signatures of 55,384 electors of this State, which number is in excess of ten percent of the total vote cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State within fifty days after the convening of the One Hundred and Ninth Legislature in Second Regular Session, requesting that the Legislature consider a bill entitled: "AN ACT to Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by Means of Nuclear Fission" coded as 10 MRSA, Chapter 4, Subchapter II; and

WHEREAS, the petitioning electors further required that should the Legislature not enact said measure without change, that said measure be referred to the people as a Special Election ordered by Proclamation of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the initiated bill, "AN ACT to Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by Means of Nuclear Fission" failed enactment when the House of Representatives, on March 20, 1980, and the State Senate, on March 21, 1980, accepted the unanimous "Ought Not to Pass" report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Maine Constitution, such election may be held not less than four nor more than six months from the date of this Proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph E. Brennan, Governor of the State of Maine, acting under the provisions of Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, do hereby proclaim that a special election shall be called for the fourth Tuesday in September, being the twenty-third day of the month, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this eleventh day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

JOSEPH E. BRENNAN

JAMES S. HENDERSON  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

## REFERENDUM QUESTION

Shall "AN ACT to Prohibit the Generation of Electric Power by Means of Nuclear Fission," become law?

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### Intent and Content

The initiated bill would prohibit the generation of electric power by nuclear fission thermal power plants in the State of Maine. The prohibition would apply to existing as well as proposed nuclear power plants.

A "YES" VOTE favors the prohibition against nuclear power plants.

A "NO" VOTE opposes the prohibition against nuclear power plants.