

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1558

S. P. 447

In Senate, April 7, 1975

Referred to Committee on Energy. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Marcotte of York.

Cosponsor: Senator Gahagan of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Creating the Maine Energy Development Fund.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 13-A is enacted to read:

PART 13-A

MAINE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

CHAPTER 340

MAINE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

§ 5201. Policy and purpose.

The Legislature declares that there is a critical need for the development of alternate sources of energy, utilizing Maine's abundant supply of renewable natural resources.

The Legislature further declares that the technology exists to produce energy from certain of these sources and that by developing that technology the State can significantly reduce its present vulnerability to drastic fluctuations in the availability of imported supplies, while providing for the protection of the environment, the orderly development of industry and the present and future well-being of the people of this State.

§ 5202. Fund created.

There is created and established the Maine Energy Development Fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter which shall be utilized to execute the responsibilities of State Government relating to energy research and development.

§ 5203. Executive director

1. Executive Director. The energy coordinator shall be the executive director of the fund.

2. Powers and duties. The executive director shall exercise the powers of the office and shall be responsible for the execution of its duties. He shall:

A. Administer the fund and adopt such methods of administration not inconsistent with the law as he may deem necessary;

B. Prepare and submit for executive and legislative action thereon the budget for the fund;

C. Appoint and remove a staff for the fund consisting of one secretary and one administrative assistant. These employees shall be hired as unclassified employees;

D. Call a meeting with the other directors of the fund at least once a month for the purpose of administering the fund; and

E. Inform the director of proposed research projects and progress on ongoing projects on a timely basis.

§ 5204. Directors

1. Appointment of directors. There shall be 2 additional directors of the fund to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Executive Council. One director shall be a representative of the academic community, and one director shall be a technical expert in the field of energy research and development. The directors shall serve a term coterminous with that of the Governor and until his successor is appointed and qualified, subject to removal for cause by the Governor.

2. Salary. The directors shall be paid a salary of \$1,000 per year.

3. Powers and duties. They shall attend meetings called by the executive director of the fund at least once a month for the purpose of administering the fund.

§ 5205. Use of fund; allocation

1. Use. Moneys from the fund shall be used to encourage and promote the practical development of alternate sources of energy, including but not limited to the following means:

A. Sponsoring research projects undertaken by academic institutions in the State of Maine;

B. Seeking and allocating federal funds and private funds;

C. Creating an independent institution for conducting specific research projects and receiving federal and private funds;

D. Entering into contracts with consultants;

E. Entering into agreements for the purpose of purchasing alternate forms of energy for the State.

2. Allocation. Moneys from the fund shall be allocated in the following manner:

A. By a majority vote the 3 directors of the fund shall determine that a specific research project, consulting contract, purchasing agreement or such other arrangements as they choose, is desirable and necessary for the interests of Maine's energy position;

B. The executive director shall prepare specifications for this project and request that proposals be submitted to the directors;

C. By a majority vote the 3 directors of the fund shall determine which proposal is best able to meet the interests of the State and allocate funds to that project.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department the sum of \$2,050,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown will be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
Maine Energy Development Fund		
Personal Services	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
All Other	1,000,000	1,000,000
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	\$1,025,000	\$1,025,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to enable the State to develop its indigenous natural resources for meeting energy needs.