

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-586)  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 798, L.D. 992, Bill,  
"AN ACT for Expression of Public Sentiment on the Dickey-Lincoln  
Hydroelectric Power Project by Referendum."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting  
clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Special advisory referendum on Maine's energy  
future. The Secretary of State shall at the statewide election  
on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, 1980,  
hold a special advisory referendum to determine the sentiment  
of the people on which of the available alternatives of energy  
production should be developed to meet the State's energy needs.

Sec. 2. Advisory referendum procedure; submission at  
special statewide election; gubernatorial proclamation of results.  
This advisory referendum shall be submitted to the legal voters  
of the State of Maine at a special statewide election to be held  
on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following  
passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town selectmen and  
plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants  
of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in  
the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to  
give their opinion on this question by voting on the following:

"Which of the following should be constructed in Maine:

1. The Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric facility on the St. John River;
2. An additional nuclear generating facility; or
3. A coal-fired steam generating facility?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square opposite the alternative selected. Only one alternative shall be designated.

The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and shall proclaim, without delay, the total number of ballots in favor of each energy alternative.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this advisory referendum.'

#### Statement of Fact

The Legislature and the people of the State face a difficult decision for future energy development. Oil supplies are getting increasingly scarce, unreliable and expensive. To ensure the prosperity and welfare of the people, new energy production facilities will have to be developed. None of the available alternatives can be developed without some adverse impact. Each alternative cannot be judged independently. Each must be

considered in comparison to the other options available.

This amendment will give the people of Maine an opportunity to vote on which energy alternative they most favor, and thus will provide a clear indication of public sentiment to elected state and federal officials.

Reported by Report B of the Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
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Clerk of the House.  
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