

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1461

H. P. 1194

House of Representatives, March 26, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Davies of Orono, referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Establish a Committee to Report to the Legislature on the Feasibility of Rebuilding Dams for the Production of Electricity.

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

Sec. 1. Appointment and membership. A Small Dam Study Committee shall be established as follows:

1. **Energy Resources.** The Director of the Office of Energy Resources or his designee, chairman;

2. **Public Utilities Commission.** A member of the Public Utilities Commission or his designee;

3. **Conservation.** The Commissioner of Conservation or his designee;

4. **Environmental Protection.** The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or his designee;

5. **House of Representatives.** A member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

6. **Senate.** A member of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

7. Governor appointments. The following members shall be appointed by the Governor:

- A. Two members representative of lake, river or stream-shore property owners;
- B. Two members representative of small hydroelectric dam developers;
- C. Two members representative of the general public; and
- D. A member representative of an electric utility.

Sec. 2. Duties. The committee shall study the feasibility of the development of Maine's small dams for the purpose of generating hydroelectric power. It shall examine all pertinent questions relating to the development of small dam hydroelectric power, and it shall attempt to find legislative and other means to resolve disputes between conflicting interests over the development of small hydropower.

The committee shall examine the feasibility of the development of small hydropower at all significant sites in the State, and shall make recommendations to the Office of Energy Resources as to the allocation of any moneys the Office of Energy Resources shall control for this purpose, including moneys within the Maine Energy Resources Development Fund.

The committee shall be assisted in its activities by the Office of Energy Resources.

3. Reports. The committee shall make a report to the Second Regular Session of the 109th Legislature, and subsequent reports to each session of the following Legislatures.

4. Term. The committee shall, as a body, have a term of 3 years.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill set up a broad-based committee to resolve the disputes between conflicting interests on the question of rebuilding the State's small dams for the production of hydroelectric power. The committee is also authorized to advise the Office of Energy Resources on what specific sites should be developed.