

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 381

H. P. 313

House of Representatives, January 21, 1981

Submitted by the State Planning Office pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Hall of Sangerville, referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Reeves of Pittston.

Cosponsors: Representative LaPlante of Sabattus and Representative E. Paradis of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Encourage the Establishment of Municipal Energy Commissions.

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

30 MRSA, c. 229, sub-c.II-A is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER II-A

ENERGY COMMISSIONERS

§ 3861. **Energy commissions**

Municipalities may establish energy commissions.

The municipal officers may appoint not less than 3, nor more than 7, energy commissioners. The terms of office initially shall be one, 2 and 3 years, such that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members shall expire each year, or until the appointment of their successors and their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years each. Any commissioner presently serving a term greater than 3 years may serve until his term expires. The appointment of a successor shall be for a term of 3 years.

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 3851 to 3854, municipal officials may combine the duties of a municipal energy commission with those of an existing conservation commission to create an entity with responsibilities for a wide range of energy and conservation issues.

§ 3862. Purpose; activities

The purpose of the municipal energy commission shall be:

1. Study and recommend policies. To study and recommend energy policies to the municipal officers, body or board and to the planning board, if any;
2. Encourage energy conservation. To reduce energy consumption in the municipality by encouraging energy conservation and better energy management;
3. Promote self-sufficiency. To promote efforts to increase community energy self-sufficiency through the development of safe, efficient and renewable energy resources;
4. Provide leadership and direction. To provide leadership and direction for local energy conservation education;
5. Assist in securing funding. To work with other public and private organizations to secure funding and other resources for local energy projects and employment; and
6. Coordinate with other organizations. To coordinate their efforts with those of other local, regional and state organizations.

The commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the municipality to be published as part of the annual report to the municipality to be published as part of the annual municipal report. The commission shall also notify the Office of Energy Resources of its formation.

The commission may promote and conduct research, in furtherance of its purposes, in conjunction with the planning board, if any, and in the following areas; Public transportation; van pools and carpools; recycling; solar power; cogeneration; hydro-electric power; energy audits; energy conservation and other activities that will make the municipality more energy self-sufficient through the utilization of renewable energy resources.

Municipal energy commissions may seek technical assistance from the Office of Energy Resources and that office shall notify local energy commissions in writing, of plans and projects that may affect those commissions, if the commission so requests.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is in Maine's and the nation's interest to conserve energy and to develop alternative energy resources to increase energy self-sufficiency. The purpose of

this bill is to provide, at the municipal level, an institutional mechanism for focusing local energy efforts.

This bill would give municipal officials the authority, if they choose to use it, to appoint an energy commission to advise them and local residents on ways to lessen the municipalities dependence on non-renewable energy resources. This bill is similar in concept to Title 30, sections 3851 to 3854, which encourage municipal conservation commissions. It would stimulate the creation of local energy commissions and perhaps the establishment of a Maine Association of Energy Commissions. Further, as it is likely that federal funding will be provided to communities to support local energy planning activities, enactment of this bill would put Maine communities in a better position to utilize funding as it becomes available.