

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 628

H. P. 552

House of Representatives, February 4, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Vose of Eastport.

Cosponsors: Senator Brown of Washington, Representative Pearson of Old Town, Representative Huber of Falmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for Determination of the Engineering Feasibility and the Environmental and Economic Effects of the Cobscook Bay Tital Power Project.

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

**Appropriations.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Office of Energy Resources

All Other

1981-82

\$25,000

Establishes a fund to determine the engineering feasibility and the environmental and economic effects of tidal power development in Cobscook Bay in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 5005, subsection 1, paragraph G.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The Office of Energy Resources is required by statute to "encourage and direct or sponsor research, experiments and demonstration projects within the State to develop alternate sources . . . which rely on the renewable natural resources for the State, such as . . . the tides." Maine is the only State on the east coast with tidal power potential. A tidal power development project is already being explored for Half Moon Cove on the north side of Cobscook Bay. Because of the tidal cycle that project can supply power for about ½ of the day. It would be extremely beneficial to have a complementary project to provide a similar amount of power, 8-18 megawatts, for the other ½ of the day. The Cobscook Bay Tidal Power Committee of Lubec, which includes representatives of the Maine municipalities on Cobscook Bay has been meeting for over a year, and has received some funding in 1980 from the Coastal Energy Impact Program to assess this paired basin concept, but without regard to the specific site location.

This appropriation will enable the Cobscook Bay Tidal Power Committee to conduct technical studies of the environmental and economic effects associated with the project at a specific site to coordinate planning with the Half Moon Cove Project and to continue support of the planning activities of the Cobscook Bay Tidal Power Committee or any successor Tidal Power Authority.