

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 550

H.P. 453

House of Representatives, February 7, 1983

Reported by Representative Michaud from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Reported from the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources under Joint Rule 19, pursuant to 1982 H.P. 2400.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**RESOLVE, Authorizing and Directing the
Joint Standing Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources to Contract for an
Engineering Study of Maine River Sites
to Determine the Feasibility
of Current-type Turbines for
Hydropower Production.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, an engineering feasibility study of certain Maine river sites to determine the usefulness of current-type turbine technology for hydropower generation should examine river sites in various seasons; and

1 Whereas, the members of the Joint Standing Com-
2 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources who will con-
3 tract for this study will be able to carry out their
4 responsibilities most easily while the Legislature is
5 in session and the members are available to meet; and

6 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
7 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
8 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
9 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
10 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

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

14 **Current-type turbines; engineering feasibility**
15 **study. Resolved:** That the Joint Standing Committee
16 on Energy and Natural Resources is directed to
17 appoint a subcommittee of its members to contract for
18 an engineering study of a few Maine river sites to
19 determine the feasibility of using current-type tur-
20 bines to produce hydropower at some sites.

21 The current-type turbine technology studied
22 shall be a device or devices capable of generating
23 hydropower from the velocity of a river's current
24 without using conventional dams to create headwater
25 or using an ultra-low head of water.

26 The study shall begin by using available data on
27 current flow, geographic characteristics, and the
28 like to narrow the investigation to a few appropriate
29 Maine river sites. These sites shall be examined
30 with the result of one or 2 sites being finally cho-
31 sen for the engineering feasibility study. The engi-
32 neering feasibility study shall define and determine
33 the cost of the installation of a prototype
34 current-type turbine at the particular site or sites;
35 and be it further

36 **Proposals; report. Resolved:** That the subcom-
37 mittee appointed by the Joint Standing Committee on
38 Energy and Natural Resources shall request proposals
39 for the conduct of the study, review the proposals
40 submitted and contract for performance of the study.
41 The subcommittee shall:

- 1 1. Approve the detailed work plan for the study;
- 2 2. Conduct general oversight of the study;
- 3 3. Examine the results of the study; and
- 4 4. Report, by November 1, 1983, their conclusions and any recommendations for future legislative
- 5 action to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and
- 6 Natural Resources; and be it further
- 7

8 **Legislation. Resolved:** That the Joint Standing
9 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources report any
10 necessary implementing legislation arising from the
11 study to the Legislative Council for introduction at
12 the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature;
13 and be it further

14 **Allocation. Resolved:** That \$25,000 be allocated
15 from the Legislative Account to carry out this study.

16 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
17 in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when
18 approved.

19 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

20 This resolve arises from a study conducted by the
21 Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural
22 Resources of current-type turbine devices that pro-
23 duce hydropower using the velocity of waterflow
24 rather than the fall of headwaters created by a dam.
25 The committee found in its study that viable
26 current-type turbine technology exists and may have
27 some application in Maine. The purpose of this
28 resolve is to authorize and fund the next phase of
29 the investigation of this technology, an engineering
30 feasibility study of specific Maine river sites.

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