

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1537  
6

7 S.P. 513

In Senate, April 29, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent down for concurrence  
9 and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Kany of Kennebec.

Cosponsors: Representative Thompson of So. Portland, Senator  
11 Carpenter of Aroostook and Representative Hall of Sangerville.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
16

17 AN ACT to Provide for Citizen Participation  
18 in the Decision to Construct any Nuclear  
19 Power Plant.  
20

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

23 35 MRSA c. 269, sub-c. V is enacted to read:

24 SUBCHAPTER V

25 CONSTRUCTION

26 §3381. Findings and purpose

27 The Legislature finds that construction of a  
28 nuclear power plant is a major financial investment,  
29 which will have consequences for ratepayers for years  
30 to come. In the recent past, investments in nuclear  
31 power plants have caused severe financial strain on  
32 consumers and utilities alike.

1       The Legislature finds that there are many uncer-  
2 tain future costs associated with nuclear power  
3 plants, including the costs of low-level and  
4 high-level waste disposal, decommissioning and long-  
5 term care. These costs shall be borne by the consum-  
6 ers.

7       The Legislature finds that citizens are concerned  
8 about the possible health, safety and environmental  
9 effects associated with nuclear power plants, due to  
10 routine air emissions or other sources.

11       The purpose of this subchapter is to provide for  
12 citizen participation in any decision to construct a  
13 nuclear power plant within the State.

14       §3382. Referendum

15       Prior to the construction of any nuclear power  
16 plant within the State, the question of approving  
17 that construction shall be submitted to the voters of  
18 the State in the manner prescribed by law for holding  
19 a statewide election. This question shall be submit-  
20 ted to the legal voters of the State at the next fol-  
21 lowing statewide election. The city aldermen, town  
22 selectmen and plantation assessors of this State  
23 shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cit-  
24 ies, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner  
25 prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,  
26 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of construc-  
27 tion by voting on the following question:

28       "Shall the nuclear power plant proposed for con-  
29 struction at \_\_\_\_\_ (insert location)  
30 be approved for construction?"

31       The legal voters of each city, town and  
32 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and  
33 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark  
34 placed within a corresponding square below the words  
35 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,  
36 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and  
37 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary  
38 of State in the same manner as votes for members of  
39 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the  
40 return and, if it appears that a majority of the  
41 legal votes are in favor of construction, the Gover-  
42 nor shall proclaim that fact without delay.

