

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

NO. 20
6

7 I.B. 1 House of Representatives, January 15, 1987
8

9 Transmitted to the Clerk of the House of the 113th Maine
Legislature by the Secretary of State on January 13, 1987 and
10 2,000 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Regarding the Generation of Electric
18 Power and High-level Radioactive
19 Waste.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 35 MRSA §3367 is enacted to read:

24 §3367. Declaration of findings

25 The people of the State of Maine declare:

26 A. That there currently exists no acceptable
27 means to dispose of high-level nuclear waste;

28 B. That the people of Maine are inalterably op-
29 posed to the consideration of any Maine location
30 for the disposal or long-term storage of
31 high-level nuclear waste;

1 C. That it is irresponsible to continue the pro-
2 duction of high-level nuclear waste in light of
3 the above.

4 Sec. 2. 35 MRSA §3368 is enacted to read:

5 §3368. Production of high-level nuclear waste

6 After July 4, 1988, no nuclear fission thermal
7 power plant may generate electric power within the
8 State by means which result in the production of
9 high-level waste.

10

STATEMENT OF FACT

11 The purpose of this bill is to provide a mecha-
12 nism by which the voters of this State may express
13 their will on the continued generation of electric
14 power which results in the production of high-level
15 radioactive waste within the State. Section 1 of
16 this bill makes a declaration of findings concerning
17 the inconsistency in the continued production of
18 high-level nuclear waste in light of the Federal
19 Government's failed program to dispose of it. Sec-
20 tion 2 of the bill prohibits, subject to voter ap-
21 proval, the production of high-level radioactive
22 waste after July 4, 1988, by electricity-generating
23 nuclear power plants operating in Maine. Enactment
24 and popular approval of this bill is an exercise of
25 traditional state authority to regulate the genera-
26 tion, sale and transmission of electric power for
27 purposes other than protection against radiation haz-
28 ards.

29 The prohibition on the generation of high-level
30 radioactive waste after July 4, 1988, which this bill
31 proposes to present to the voters, is based on the
32 following.

- 33 1. It is irresponsible to continue the produc-
34 tion of high-level nuclear waste when there
35 is clearly no acceptable method of disposal.
- 36 2. Most of the high-level radioactive waste pro-
37 duced in Maine is produced by the generation

1 of electric power. The Federal Government
2 has failed to provide a reasonable method to
3 dispose of that waste, despite years of study
4 and assurances that disposal facilities are
5 feasible and, indeed, forthcoming. Although
6 there is widespread public opposition to the
7 location of a high-level disposal site in
8 Maine, Maine is, nevertheless, under active
9 consideration for such a site. Maine will
10 make the strongest and most responsible argu-
11 ment to be dropped from consideration by the
12 Federal Government as a site by discontinuing
13 the production of high-level nuclear waste
14 within its borders.

15 3. There are unacceptably high economic costs
16 associated with the generation, isolation,
17 transportation and ultimate disposal of
18 high-level radioactive waste produced by the
19 generation of electric power.

20 4. Much of the low-level radioactive waste pro-
21 duced in Maine is also the result of the gen-
22 eration of electric power. Maine is current-
23 ly faced with the problem of finding a dis-
24 posal site for its low-level radioactive
25 waste. Ceasing the production of high-level
26 radioactive waste will result in curtailing
27 the production of low-level radioactive
28 wastes which will make it easier for Maine to
29 meet the responsibility imposed by federal
30 law to dispose of its low-level radioactive
31 waste.

32 5. By delaying the prohibition imposed by this
33 bill to July 4, 1988, a reasonable time is
34 provided to allow for the orderly transition
35 to other methods of electrical generation.

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