

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 278, L.D. 356, Bill, "An Act to Establish the Advisory Council on Energy and the Environment"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Establish a Study Group on Energy and the Environment'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Externalities study; study group. The Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of the State Planning Office and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection constitute a study group for the purposes of conducting a study of externalities in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

1. Duties. To the extent possible, within available resources, the study group shall:

A. Create a comprehensive library within the Public Utilities Commission of literature on environmental externalities. In creating the library, the study group shall create a separate file containing available summaries of the literature. The study group shall also identify specifically those portions of the literature that provide methods of evaluating the relative magnitude of different externalities;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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B. Summarize state and federal environmental policies and regulations that presently impact the pricing of regulated and unregulated energy resources in Maine. The study group shall attempt, as far as possible, to quantify these impacts;

C. For the various energy resources, identify the most significant categories of environmental impacts that are not currently reflected in current pricing; and

D. Develop recommendations for preferred methods of accounting for the costs to society and the environment of environmental externalities.

For purposes of this section, the term "externalities" means those short-term and long-term impacts, with primary emphasis on environmental impacts, resulting from the extraction, production, transmission, consumption or utilization of energy or energy resources that are not accounted for or quantified in the context of state energy-regulatory decision making. For purposes of this section, "energy resources" includes energy derived from natural gas, coal, nuclear fuel, water, wind, demand-side management, biomass and refuse-derived fuel and petroleum products.

Sec. 2. Consultation. The study group may consult with any state agency, group or person, including, but not limited to, the Department of Transportation, the Maine Waste Management Agency, the Public Advocate and the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health.

Sec. 3. Reports. On or before January 1, 1995, the study group shall provide an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters outlining its progress in completing its study pursuant to section 1. On or before January 1, 1996, the study group shall provide its final report, with any accompanying recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters detailing the results of its study pursuant to section 1.

Sec. 4. Utilities committee authorized to report out a bill. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters may report out a bill dealing with externalities to the First Regular Session or Second Regular Session of the 117th Legislature in response to the reports issued by the study group under section 3.

FISCAL NOTE

2 The Public Utilities Commission, the Department of
3 Environmental Protection and the State Planning Office will incur
4 some minor additional costs to establish and participate in the
5 study group on energy and the environment. These costs can be
6 absorbed within the various agencies' existing budgeted
7 resources.'

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10 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

12 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. This
13 amendment establishes a study group to study certain
14 externalities issues. The study group is composed of the Chair
15 of the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of the State
16 Planning Office and the Commissioner of Environmental
17 Protection. The group is required to provide a progress report
18 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
19 jurisdiction over utilities matters by January 1, 1995. The
20 group is required to provide its final report by January 1, 1996.