

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

---

Legislative Document

No. 1455

S.P. 463

In Senate, May 6, 1993

### An Act Regarding Low-level Radioactive Waste.

---

Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3191, as amended by PL 1991, c. 769, §2,  
is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

6 It is also the policy of the State to regulate the  
8 generation of radioactive waste to the greatest extent  
permissible under federal law.

10 Sec. 2. 38 MRSA, c. 14-B, sub-c. VII is enacted to read:

12 **SUBCHAPTER VII**

14 **LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE REDUCTION**

16 **§1545. Policy**

18 It is the policy of the State to reduce the unnecessary  
20 generation of low-level radioactive waste in this State and to  
reduce the subsequent need for disposal of that waste. Where  
22 equal products or services may be obtained by the use of  
nonradioactive materials, the policy of the State is to prefer  
24 and encourage those methods and processes as an alternative to  
methods and processes that generate low-level radioactive waste.

26 **§1546. Rules for packaging of waste**

28 The authority shall adopt rules for packaging of low-level  
30 radioactive waste that require the use of the safest available  
technology to provide protection in the event that disposal or  
storage of the waste in this State becomes necessary.

32 **§1547. Waste produced by cleanup of contaminated areas**

34 The authority shall oversee the cleanup of areas  
36 contaminated by low-level radioactive waste to ensure that:

38 1. Compliance with standards. The cleanup complies with  
40 applicable federal and state standards;

42 2. Thoroughness. The cleanup is thorough and complete and  
results in no long-term threat to the public or the environment;

44 3. Volume minimization. Wastes are handled and managed in  
46 a manner to minimize their volume; and

48 4. Waste packaging. Waste packaging meets applicable state  
requirements for disposal or storage.

2           **§1548. Use of alternatives to reduce production of radioactive**  
3                           **waste**

4           The authority shall investigate the purposes for which  
5           generators of radioactive waste employ radioactive substances.  
6           The authority shall attempt to identify methods or processes that  
7           produce equal results without using radioactive materials and  
8           shall make that information available to the generator.

10           **§1549. Nuclear power plant generators**

12           The authority shall attempt to identify methods of reducing  
13           the generation of low-level radioactive waste by nuclear power  
14           generating facilities and to communicate those methods to the  
15           generator, provided those methods are compatible with regulations  
16           of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The  
17           authority shall also ensure that wastes are packaged in  
18           accordance with authority rules.

20           **§1550. Application**

22           This subchapter does not apply to medical or veterinary  
23           professionals or to persons who generate radioactive waste in the  
24           process of conducting scientific studies or experiments for the  
25           purpose of improving environmental or public health.

28

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

30           This bill requires the Maine Low-level Radioactive Waste  
31           Authority to investigate ways to reduce the generation of  
32           low-level radioactive waste by identifying nonradioactive  
33           alternatives. It also requires the authority to adopt rules for  
34           the packaging of wastes and to oversee the cleanup of areas  
                  contaminated by radioactive waste.