

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1084

S.P. 396

In Senate, March 30, 1995

Resolve, to Require Development of Energy Plans.

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Senator CARPENTER of York for the Commission on the Future of Maine's Paper Industry pursuant to Resolve 1993, chapter 75.

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 20.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

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

4
6 **Whereas,** the Commission on the Future of Maine's Paper
Industry learned that among the leading paper industry states
Maine makes least use of natural gas and coal, the lowest cost
8 energy sources, that Maine's costs for electricity, natural gas
and coal are all the highest and that, as a result, Maine's
10 energy costs are highest of the leading paper industry states; and

12 **Whereas,** state law requires the State Planning Office to
coordinate the preparation of policies to guide and carry forward
14 the wise and coordinated development of the State's energy
resources and to encourage, direct or sponsor projects to develop
16 alternative energy sources; and

18 **Whereas,** the existence of high energy costs is a major
expense to an industry whose capital expenditures in the State
20 have declined markedly in the last several years; and

22 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
24 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
26 safety; now, therefore, be it

28 **Sec. 1. Energy cost goal. Resolved:** That, by December 1, 1995,
the State Planning Office shall develop and recommend to the
30 Legislature and appropriate state agencies a long-term energy
strategy to make the State's energy and electric costs, as
32 measured by the Congressional Quarterly's State Fact Finder or
similar publication, more competitive with other states. The
34 office shall set numerical goals for the lowering of the State's
energy and electric costs and a timetable for their attainment;
36 and be it further

38 **Sec. 2. Hydroelectric dam licensing. Resolved:** That, by December
1, 1995, the State Planning Office shall determine and recommend
40 to the Legislature and appropriate state agencies ways to reduce
the costs of hydroelectric dam licensing and to ensure that
42 policies and procedures for licensing are consistent, so as to
reduce the uncertainty involved in hydroelectric dam licensing;
44 and be it further

46 **Sec. 3. Natural gas. Resolved:** That, within 30 days of the
passage of this resolve, the State Planning Office shall form a
48 commission to develop and recommend to the Legislature a plan of
action to increase the availability of natural gas in the State.
50 The State Planning Office is responsible for having the
commission plan ready by December 1, 1995.

2 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
4

6 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

8 This resolve is the unanimous recommendation of the
Commission on the Future of Maine's Paper Industry. It is one of
10 4 bills being submitted by that commission.

12 The resolve directs the State Planning Office, which has
statutory responsibility for the development of state energy
14 resources, to take the following actions:

16 1. To prepare recommendations that result in a decrease of
the State's high energy and electric costs;

18 2. To prepare recommendations to reduce the costs of and
20 simplify hydroelectric dam licensing; and

22 3. To form a commission to develop a plan to increase the
availability of natural gas in the State.
24

26 All of these activities are to be completed by December 1,
1995.