

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

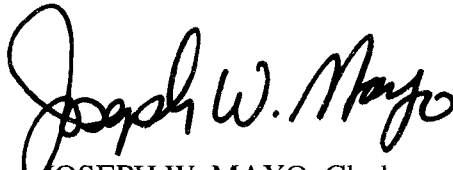
No. 1185

H.P. 851

House of Representatives, February 11, 1999

Resolve, to Establish the Renewable Energy Policy Commission.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

Sec. 1. Commission created; members, appointment; chair.

2 **Resolved:** That the Renewable Energy Policy Commission, referred
to in this Act as the "commission", is established to formulate
4 and articulate state policy related to use and promotion of
renewable energy in the context of electric industry
6 restructuring. The commission consists of 13 members as follows:

8 A. The President of the Senate shall appoint one member who
must be a member of the Senate and who serves as chair of
10 the commission;

12 B. The Speaker of the House shall appoint one member who
must be a member of the House of Representatives;

14 C. The director of the State Planning Office or the
16 director's designee;

18 D. The Public Advocate or the Advocate's designee;

20 E. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
of Representatives shall jointly appoint 5 members as
22 follows:

24 (1) Three persons directly in the business of electric
generation using renewable resources, including wind
26 power, photovoltaic generation and hydrogen fuel cells;

28 (2) One person representing an electric transmission
and distribution utility; and

30 (3) One person who is a consumer of electricity; and
32

F. The Governor shall appoint 4 members as follows:

34 (1) Two persons directly in the business of electric
generation using renewable resources, including wind
36 power, photovoltaic generation and hydrogen fuel cells;

38 (2) One person representing a competitive provider of
40 electric generation service; and

42 (3) One person who is a consumer of electricity.

44 Appointment and designation of members must be completed no later
than September 1, 1999; and be it further
46

Sec. 2. Convening. Resolved: That when the appointment and
48 designation of all members of the commission is completed, the
chair of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting
50 that must be no later than September 15, 1999; and be it further

2 **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall formulate
and articulate a state policy related to use and promotion of
4 renewable energy in the context of restructuring the electric
industry. Policy developed by the commission must deal with the
6 period between March 1, 2000 and December 31, 2010, though the
commission may develop policies that extend beyond 2010. The
8 commission must identify steps that must be taken on a
year-by-year basis to accomplish a renewable energy policy that
10 promotes energy self-reliance and emphasizes low-impact electric
power generation and distribution. The commission must establish
12 benchmarks for achieving reasonably reduced reliance on energy
resources that are not renewable or sustainable. The commission,
14 in developing a state renewable energy policy, shall consider at
least the following:

- 16 A. Increasing Maine's self-reliance on power generation;
- 18 B. Encouraging self-generation of electricity by consumers;
- 20 C. Policies that enhance use of energy conservation;
- 22 D. Encouraging ecological sustainability and identifying
24 priorities for generation sources to promote such
sustainability;
- 26 E. Creating incentives for use of renewable technologies
28 that will support small business development;
- 30 F. Encouraging development of energy cooperatives;
- 32 G. Removing or modifying regulatory disincentives for the
development of renewable energy technologies, including
34 environmental siting regulation and tax policies;
- 36 H. Promoting the viability of renewable technologies;
- 38 I. Promoting the exporting of energy produced from the
sustainable use of renewable Maine resources;
- 40 J. Modifying or enhancing the portfolio requirement for
42 competitive providers of retail electric service; and
- 44 K. Defining and classifying renewable resources and
technologies; and be it further
- 46

48 **Sec. 4. Authority. Resolved:** That in examining these matters,
the commission may hold up to 5 meetings, including public
hearings and informational sessions; and be it further

50

2 **Sec. 5. Staff. Resolved:** Upon approval of the Legislative
4 Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide
 necessary staffing assistance to the commission; and be it further

6 **Sec. 6. Compensation of members. Resolved:** That legislative
8 members are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and
10 reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at
12 authorized meetings of the commission. Public members not
 otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom
 they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary
 expenses and a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for
 their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be
 it further

14 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a
16 report that must include its findings, together with any
18 recommended legislation, to the First Regular Session of the
20 120th Legislature no later than December 20, 2000. Upon
 submission of its report, the commission shall terminate. In the
 commission's report the commission must address the following:

22 A. Steps that must be taken on a year-by-year basis to
24 accomplish the renewable energy policy that is developed by
26 the commission and must promote energy self-reliance and
 emphasize low-impact electric power generation and
 distribution; and

28 B. Benchmarks for achieving reasonably reduced reliance on
30 energy resources that are not renewable or sustainable; and
 be it further

32 **Sec. 8. Budget. Resolved:** That with the assistance of
34 staff, the chair of the commission shall administer the study
36 budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission
38 shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative
40 Council for approval. The commission may not incur expenses that
42 would result in the study group exceeding its approved budget.
 Upon request of the commission, the Executive Director of the
 Legislative Council or the executive director's designee shall
 provide the commission chair and staff with a status report on
 the commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and
 available funds.

44 **SUMMARY**
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48 This bill establishes the Renewable Energy Policy
50 Commission. The purpose of the commission is to develop a state
 renewable energy policy that promotes energy self-reliance and
 emphasizes low-impact electric power generation and

2 distribution. The commission must identify steps that need to be
taken on a year-by-year basis to accomplish the policy and
4 benchmarks for achieving reasonably reduced reliance on energy
resources that are not renewable or sustainable.