

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 1995

H.P. 1492

House of Representatives, December 26, 2001

Resolve, Regarding Participation in Regional Transmission Organization.

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2001. Referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BLISS of South Portland, HALL of Bristol.

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 **Whereas,** regional transmission systems are undergoing
6 comprehensive restructuring that will have a significant and
lasting impact upon competition in electricity markets and upon
8 the costs faced by consumers of electricity in the State; and

10 **Whereas,** important decisions regarding regional transmission
systems are already being made in the context of substantive
12 litigation and negotiations; and

14 **Whereas,** the attention to and oversight of these proceedings
by the Legislature and the Public Utilities Commission are vital
16 to protect the interest of the State's electric consumers; and

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

24 **Sec. 1. Study authorized. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities
Commission shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of
26 the State's transmission and distribution utilities' joining a
regional transmission organization that includes northern Maine
28 and portions of Canada. In conducting its study, the commission
shall invite the participation of interested parties; and be it
30 further

32 **Sec. 2. Regional transmission organization governance. Resolved:**
That the Public Utilities Commission shall require that any
34 regional transmission organization joined by the State's
transmission and distribution utilities have a governance
36 structure that provides for voting participation of consumers.

38 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
40

42 **SUMMARY**

44 This resolve requires the Public Utilities Commission to
conduct a study of the feasibility of the State's transmission
46 and distribution utilities' participation in a regional

2 transmission organization that includes northern Maine and
Canada. The resolve also requires that any regional transmission
4 organization joined by the State's transmission and distribution
utilities have a governance structure that provides for
meaningful consumer participation.