

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1312

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DATE: 5-9-03

(Filing No. H-317)

**UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
121ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 966, L.D. 1312, Bill, "An Act To Ensure and Encourage the Generation of Electricity from Renewable Resources"

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

**'Resolve, Relating to Renewable Resources'**

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission examination. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall examine mechanisms designed to ensure a secure, adequate and reliable supply of electricity for state residents and to maintain and increase the State's use of renewable and indigenous resources. In particular, the commission shall examine mechanisms that would provide adequate support for indigenous Maine generation facilities, including, but not limited to, hydroelectric facilities with a capacity of 30 megawatts or less, biomass generators and hydrogen-based fuel cell generators. The commission shall develop an analysis that articulates, to the extent possible, the cost of achieving the various goals and the most effective forms of each of the following support mechanisms:

- 1. A renewable portfolio requirement, similar in design to

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

2 the current requirement under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
35-A, section 3210, with appropriate modifications to ensure that  
4 it is both effective and permits a reasonable estimate of the  
cost to consumers;

6 2. A system benefits charge, with clearly articulated  
mechanisms for collecting and disbursing funds;

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10 3. A mechanism that would use purchases from Maine's  
renewable generators to satisfy a portion of standard offer  
12 supply, with appropriate specificity for how such purchases would  
affect consumer prices, by and from whom purchases would be made,  
14 for what period of time any renewable portion of the standard  
offer supply should be offered and the impact on other features  
of Maine's electricity markets, including in particular the  
16 standard offer and the activities of competitive suppliers; and

18 4. Mechanisms used in other states and whether such  
mechanisms could be adapted for use in Maine; and be it further

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22 **Sec. 2. Consultation. Resolved:** That, in conducting its  
examination, the Public Utilities Commission shall consult with  
24 entities with expertise or substantial interest in the subject of  
the examination, including, but not limited to, the Public  
Advocate, an organization representing independent renewable  
26 energy producers in Maine, an organization representing  
industrial energy consumers, an environmental advocacy group in  
28 Maine and representatives of transmission and distribution  
utilities; and be it further

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32 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities  
Commission shall submit the results of its examination, together  
with any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on  
34 Utilities and Energy by December 31, 2003. The commission's  
analysis must present consensus positions where possible and  
36 alternatives where agreement can not be reached; and be it further

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40 **Sec. 4. Authority to report legislation. Resolved:** That the Joint  
Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy may report out  
42 legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 121st  
Legislature on the subject matter of the Public Utilities  
Commission's examination.'

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46 **SUMMARY**

48 This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment directs  
the Public Utilities Commission to examine mechanisms designed to  
ensure a secure, adequate and reliable supply of electricity for  
50 state residents and to maintain and increase the State's use of

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 966, L.D. 1312

2 renewable and indigenous resources. The commission is directed  
to submit the results of its examination to the Joint Standing  
Committee on Utilities and Energy by December 31, 2003 and the  
4 committee is authorized to report out legislation in response to  
the commission's examination.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED  
(See attached)



**121st Maine Legislature  
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**

**LD 1312  
An Act Relating to Renewable Resources**

**LR 1721(02)  
Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "  
Committee: Utilities and Energy  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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**Fiscal Note**

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

The additional costs associated with examining mechanisms designed to ensure a secure, adequate and reliable supply of electricity and to maintain and increase the State's use of renewable and indigenous resources can be absorbed by the Public Utilities Commission utilizing existing budgeted resources.