

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1379

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DATE: 5.27.05

(Filing No. S-283)

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Reported by:

**MAJORITY**

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
122ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 477, L.D. 1379, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Maine Wind Energy Act"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3404 is enacted to read:

**§3404. Determination of public policy**

It is the policy of the State that its political subdivisions, agencies and public officials take every reasonable action to encourage the attraction of appropriately sited wind-energy-related development consistent with high environmental standards; the permitting and financing of wind energy projects; and the siting, permitting, financing and construction of wind energy research and manufacturing facilities where appropriate.

**Sec. 2. Community wind; Energy Resources Council examination.**

The Energy Resources Council shall undertake an examination of the type of electricity generation commonly referred to as "community wind." The council shall:

1. Develop a definition of "community wind";

2. Survey and gather information from appropriate agencies and experts with respect to community wind, including, but not limited to, its feasibility, impediments to its development and the need for and options for providing incentives for its development;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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2 3. Determine what measures, if any, are required to address  
4 any impediments to the attraction and development of community  
wind projects in the State;

6 4. Develop recommendations for any appropriate changes to  
laws or rules or for the establishment of any financial  
8 incentives necessary to attract and develop appropriately sited  
community wind projects in the State that are consistent with  
10 high environmental standards; and

12 5. Provide a report of its findings and recommendations to  
the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later  
14 than January 13, 2006.

16 The Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy may  
report out legislation on the subject of community wind to the  
18 Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint  
24 Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, replaces the bill.  
This amendment establishes as the policy of the State that its  
26 political subdivisions, agencies and public officials take every  
reasonable action to encourage the attraction of appropriately  
28 sited wind-energy-related development consistent with high  
environmental standards; the permitting and financing of wind  
30 energy projects; and the siting, permitting, financing and  
construction of wind energy research and manufacturing facilities  
32 where appropriate.

34 This amendment also directs the Energy Resources Council to  
study and report on the type of electricity generation referred  
36 to as "community wind." The council is directed to provide a  
report of its findings and recommendations by January 13, 2006.  
38 The Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy is  
authorized to report out legislation regarding community wind to  
40 the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1379

LR 1948(02)

**An Act To Amend the Maine Wind Energy Act**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"**

**Committee: Utilities and Energy**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

**Majority Report**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs associated with this legislation can be absorbed by the Energy Resources Council, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Public Utilities Commission utilizing existing budgeted resources.