

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 393

H.P. 309

House of Representatives, January 29, 2007

Resolve, Establishing a Commission To Develop Methods for the State To Promote the Generation of Electrical Power in an Environmentally Sound Manner and Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JACOBSEN of Waterboro.
Cosponsored by Senator COURTNEY of York and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, FLETCHER of Winslow, McLEOD of Lee.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission to Develop Methods for the State to Promote the**
2 **Generation of Electrical Power in an Environmentally Sound Manner and**
3 **Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports established. Resolved:** That the
4 Commission to Develop Methods for the State to Promote the Generation of Electrical
5 Power in an Environmentally Sound Manner and Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports,
6 referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

7 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
8 9 members appointed as follows:

9 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, each of
10 whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;

11 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House, each of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;

13 3. Two members of the public, appointed by the President of the Senate, each of
14 whom has expertise in electrical generation; and

15 4. One member of the public, appointed by the Speaker of the House, who has
16 expertise in electrical generation; and be it further

17 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
18 chair of the commission and the first-named House of Representatives member is the
19 House chair of the commission; and be it further

20 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of the commission. Resolved:** That all
21 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
22 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
23 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment
24 of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission,
25 which must be no later than October 1, 2007; and be it further

26 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study methods for the
27 State to promote the generation of electrical power in a manner that is independent of
28 foreign fuel imports and has a minimal negative impact on the environment. The
29 commission shall meet at least 2 times and may hold a public hearing and information
30 sessions to receive public testimony and recommendations from residents of the State and
31 qualified experts when appropriate; and be it further

32 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
33 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

34 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members of the
35 commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine
36 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary
37 expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Public
38 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they

1 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a
2 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their
3 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

4 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 4, 2008, the commission
5 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
6 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and
7 the Legislative Council. The commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to
8 its report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at the time of
9 submission of its report; and be it further

10 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the commission requires a limited
11 extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the
12 Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further

13 **Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
14 with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget.
15 Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and
16 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not
17 incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget.
18 Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council
19 shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the
20 commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

21

SUMMARY

22 This resolve establishes the Commission to Develop Methods for the State to
23 Promote the Generation of Electrical Power in an Environmentally Sound Manner and
24 Independent of Foreign Fuel Imports, which consists of 9 members, 6 Legislators and 3
25 members with expertise in the generation of electricity. The resolve requires the
26 commission to meet at least twice and report its findings, recommendations and any
27 implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and the
28 Legislative Council no later than January 4, 2008. The commission is authorized to
29 introduce legislation related to its report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd
30 Legislature.