

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SMC  
R. 0.5.

L.D. 1693

Date: 4/11/16

(Filing No. H-662)

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1158, L.D. 1693, "Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry"

Amend the resolve in section 2 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "15" and inserting the following: '13'

Amend the resolve in section 2 in subsection 3 in paragraph D in the last line (page 1, line 18 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "silviculture;" the following: 'and'

Amend the resolve in section 2 in subsection 4 in paragraph D in the last line (page 1, line 25 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "cogeneration;" the following: 'and be it further'

Amend the resolve in section 2 by striking out all of subsections 5 and 6 (page 1, lines 26 to 28 in L.D.).

Amend the resolve in section 5 by striking out all of the indented paragraph (page 2, lines 17 to 22 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'In conducting the duties under this section, the commission shall seek public input and shall consult and collaborate with stakeholders and experts in the fields of economic development, natural resources and energy policy; and be it further'

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide staffing services to the commission. The commission may invite the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office, the Efficiency Maine Trust, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and other appropriate agencies of State Government to provide additional staff support or assistance to the commission; and be it further'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment removes from membership on the commission established in the resolve the Director of the Efficiency Maine Trust, or the director's designee, and the chair of the Public Utilities Commission, or the chair's designee. It removes language that limits who may provide public input. It removes the requirement that the commission hire a 3rd party to help with data collection, research and best practices and to develop policy recommendations. Lastly, it removes language that requires the commission to be funded by federal funds provided by the United States Department of Energy.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1693

LR 2640(02)

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry**

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

**Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

*H (H-662)*

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## Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The general operating expenses of this commission are projected to be \$2,750 in fiscal year 2016-17. The Legislature's budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 for legislative studies. Whether this amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the commission during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs for departments and agencies to provide support and assistance to the commission are assumed to be minor and can be absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of the departments and agencies participating.