

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 755

H.P. 535

House of Representatives, March 2, 2017

**An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Nontransmission Alternatives
Investigations Required for Proposed Transmission Line Projects**

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-C, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt.
3 C, §2, is further amended to read:

4 B. Justification for adoption of the route selected, including comparison with
5 alternative routes that are environmentally, technically and economically practical;
6 and

7 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-C, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt.
8 C, §2, is repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-D** is enacted to read:

10 **2-D. Nontransmission alternatives investigation.** In considering whether to
11 approve or disapprove all or portions of a proposed transmission line pursuant to
12 subsection 5, the commission shall consider the results of an investigation by an
13 independent 3rd party, which may be the commission or a contractor selected by the
14 commission, of nontransmission alternatives to construction of the proposed transmission
15 line. The investigation must set forth the total projected costs of the transmission line as
16 well as the total projected costs of the alternatives over the effective life of the proposed
17 transmission line.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill changes the timing of the nontransmission alternatives investigation required
20 for proposed transmission line projects. The bill requires the investigation to be done
21 during the course of the proceeding to consider the petition for approval of a proposed
22 transmission line instead of being done prior to filing that petition.