

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1741

S.P. 640

In Senate, December 22, 2017

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

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President THIBODEAU of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Speaker GIDEON of Freeport and
Senators: DION of Cumberland, HILL of York, MAKER of Washington, WOODSOME of
York, Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, GILLWAY of Searsport, PIERCE of
Dresden, SANBORN of Portland.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Economic,
4 Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry
5 to examine the electricity industry in the State and the potential and benefits of energy
6 storage; and

7 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
8 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
9 legislative session; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Study
15 the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine
16 Electricity Industry, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be
17 it further

18 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
19 commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

20 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a
21 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

22 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the
24 largest number of seats in the Legislature;

25 3. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

26 A. A representative of the energy storage industry;

27 B. A representative of the hydroelectric energy storage industry;

28 C. A representative of an electric utility in the State; and

29 D. A representative of academia with suitable expertise in the electricity industry;
30 and

31 4. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as
32 follows:

33 A. A representative of a conservation organization;

34 B. A representative of a business that uses a significant amount of electricity in the
35 State;

36 C. A representative of a large-scale battery energy storage system owner; and

1 D. A representative of a small-scale battery energy storage system owner; and be it
2 further

3 **Sec. 3. Commission chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is
4 the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair
5 of the commission; and be it further

6 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
7 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
8 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
9 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
10 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
11 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
12 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
13 for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall:

15 1. Review and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of energy
16 storage to the State's electricity industry, as well as public policy and economic proposals
17 to create and maintain a sustainable future for energy storage in the State;

18 2. Consider the challenges of the broad electricity market in the State, including
19 challenges with transmission and stranded renewable energy generation in northern
20 portions of the State, and analyze whether energy storage is part of a transmission
21 solution;

22 3. Consider whether the environmental, economic, resiliency and energy benefits of
23 energy storage support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the
24 role that energy storage plays throughout the State;

25 4. Consider the costs and benefits of energy storage system procurement targets,
26 including benefits of cost savings to ratepayers from the provision of services, including
27 energy price arbitrage, capacity, ancillary services and transmission and distribution asset
28 deferral or substitution; direct cost savings to customers that deploy energy storage
29 systems; an improved ability to integrate renewable resources; improved reliability and
30 power quality; the effect on retail electric rates over the life of a given energy storage
31 system compared to the effect on retail electric rates using alternatives to energy storage
32 systems over the life of the alternatives; reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and any other
33 costs and benefits reasonably related to the application of energy storage system
34 technology, compared to the effect of leaving current policies in place; and

35 5. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the study.

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

