MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1116

S.P. 379

In Senate, March 22, 2021

Resolve, To Require Review of the Outcomes of Utility Restructuring and Electricity Generation Divestiture

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

Whereas, the regional focus on restructuring electricity markets is actively underway; and

Whereas, states in New England are working toward achieving decarbonization; and

Whereas, reliability, efficiency and resource neutrality valued by jurisdictional wholesale markets of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the clean energy and decarbonization objectives valued by the New England states are not aligned, and it is important for the Legislature to actively understand these issues so it can act accordingly; and

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

- **Sec. 1. Committee meetings. Resolved:** That the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology shall conduct at least 3 public hearings during the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature to allow both expert and public testimony on the lessons learned as a consequence of the restructuring of Maine's electric utilities, the required divestiture of utility-owned electricity generation and the creation of ISO-New England in 2000.
- **Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission review and report. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall hire an independent consultant to conduct a high-level review of and report on current proposals to better align the clean energy and decarbonization objectives adopted by New England states with the emphasis on reliability, efficiency and resource neutrality favored in the New England wholesale electricity markets and how these proposals can benefit consumers in the State through the improvement of electric energy generation and delivery.
- **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, by January 15, 2022, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology along with any recommendations regarding the independent review conducted in accordance with section 2. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to hold at least 3 public hearings during the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature to hear testimony on lessons learned from the restructuring of Maine's electric utilities, the required divestiture of utility-owned generation and the creation of ISO-New England in 2000. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to hire an independent consultant to conduct a high-level review of and report on current proposals to better align the clean energy and decarbonization objectives adopted by New England states with the emphasis

on reliability, efficiency and resource neutrality favored in the New England wholesale electricity markets and how these proposals can benefit consumers in the State through the improvement of electric energy generation and delivery. It also requires the commission to submit a report to the committee by January 15, 2022 and allows the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.