

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 2015

H.P. 1497

House of Representatives, March 9, 2022

An Act To Update the Comprehensive State Energy Plan To Achieve the State Energy Vision

Reported by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham for the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C-1.

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §9, sub-§3, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 541, §1, is repealed
3 and the following enacted in its place:

4 C. Establish a comprehensive state energy plan that includes measurable goals and
5 report on the State's progress toward meeting the plan's goals in accordance with this
6 paragraph.

7 (1) In consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust Board, established in Title 5,
8 section 12004-G, subsection 10-C, and with input from the public, the director shall
9 prepare and submit to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
10 Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters by January 15,
11 2024 a comprehensive state energy plan and by January 15 of every even-
12 numbered year thereafter an updated state energy plan.

13 (2) The state energy plan must:

14 (a) Include specific goals and strategies to achieve the state energy vision
15 established in subsection 8;

16 (b) Include specific 2-year, 10-year and 30-year goals pursuant to division (a)
17 and recommended strategies to achieve these goals;

18 (c) Include benchmarks by which progress toward the goals in division (b)
19 will be measured; and

20 (d) Describe in detail alternative pathways considered in developing the goals
21 and strategies included in the state energy plan. For each alternative pathway
22 considered, the report must include the economic modeling applied to that
23 alternative pathway and the contingencies considered in the modeling and must
24 include a description of how consideration of the alternative pathways
25 informed the goals and strategies included in the state energy plan.

26 (3) Beginning in 2026, each updated state energy plan required by subparagraph
27 (1) must include a discussion of the State's progress toward achieving the goals of
28 the plan including specific measurements of success or failure with respect to each
29 benchmark established in the plan. If an updated state energy plan includes changes
30 to the goals or strategies of the state energy plan, the director shall, before finalizing
31 the updated plan, offer to provide a detailed briefing of those changes to the joint
32 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities
33 matters and, at the request of the committee, shall provide such a briefing and
34 opportunity for input from the committee.

35 (4) Any changes in the benchmarks or methods for measuring success included in
36 any updated state energy plan must be identified in the updated plan and must be
37 designed to maintain and promote the maximum possible consistency in order to
38 ensure accountability, transparency and public understanding. The state energy
39 plan must include an explanation of the nature of each change and how the change
40 ensures such consistency. The state energy plan may include additional
41 benchmarks or methods to reflect any changes to the goals and strategies of the
42 plan.

1 After a review of any state energy plan submitted under this paragraph, the joint
2 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities
3 matters may report out a bill relating to the plan.

4 **Sec. 2. 2 MRSA §9, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

5 **8. State energy vision.** In carrying out its duties under this section, including when
6 developing the state energy plan under subsection 3, paragraph C, the office shall seek to
7 achieve the following goals, referred to in this section as "the state energy vision":

8 A. Total energy costs for the average household in the State are no higher than for the
9 average household in the United States, and the average energy costs for residents and
10 businesses in the State decline over time;

11 B. Energy spending in the State is directed whenever feasible to economic activity that
12 creates short-term and long-term jobs and increases overall state gross domestic
13 product;

14 C. Greenhouse gas emissions described under Title 38, section 576-A that are produced
15 by energy use or production are reduced through measures that address both energy
16 consumption and energy production;

17 D. State energy policies improve the State's air, soil and water quality in a manner that
18 does not cause undue environmental or economic harm to other states or regions;

19 E. On average, household energy costs in the State as a portion of household income
20 are equitable across all income levels;

21 F. Average interruptions of energy supply and delivery in the State are no longer in
22 duration or no more frequent than the average such interruptions among the other states
23 in the United States, and the frequency and duration of the interruptions decrease over
24 time;

25 G. Energy supply and delivery systems sufficient to meet basic needs are available to
26 all residents of the State and capable of functioning independently of regular supply
27 and delivery systems for prolonged periods during likely and foreseeable extreme
28 weather events; and

29 H. All energy supply and delivery disruptions that may be reasonably anticipated,
30 including those that could be caused intentionally by a malicious actor, are prevented
31 or minimized, and critical energy infrastructure is protected from ownership or control
32 that is adverse to the interests of consumers.

33 SUMMARY

34 This bill, which is reported by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and
35 Technology pursuant to its authority under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2, section 9,
36 subsection 3, paragraph C-1, creates a state energy vision and directs the Governor's Energy
37 Office to develop a state energy plan that defines goals and strategies to achieve the state
38 energy vision. The plan must be submitted every 2 years and include specific benchmarks
39 for measuring the State's progress toward its goals. The joint standing committee of the
40 Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters may report out legislation
41 relating to the content of the plan.