

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/11/23 Minority

L D 442  
(Filing No H- 123)

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to HP 275, L D 442, "An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following

**'Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following

**'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 14 members appointed as follows

1 Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

2 Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

3 One member representing an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate,

4 One member representing the interests of competitive electricity providers using hydroelectric generators or natural gas as a source of electrical generation, appointed by the Speaker of the House,

5. Two members representing the interests of competitive electricity providers using renewable resources as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C as a source of electrical generation, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House,

6 One member qualified as an economist and familiar with electricity generation and distribution, appointed by the Governor,

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           7. Two members representing residential electricity customer interests, appointed by  
2 the Governor,

3           8 One member representing commercial or industrial electricity customer interests,  
4 appointed by the President of the Senate,

5           9 One member representing the public appointed by the Public Advocate, and

6           10 One member representing the Governor's Energy Office, appointed by the  
7 Governor

8           **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named  
9 Senate member is the chair of the commission

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

18           **Sec. 5. Meetings; duties. Resolved:** That the commission is authorized to meet 5  
19 times to consider and analyze the effects of the State's efforts to transition to renewable  
20 sources of electrical generation and to meet its renewable resource electricity goals,  
21 established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 1-A,  
22 referred to in this resolve as "the state energy goals." The commission shall.

23           1 Analyze the effect of the state energy goals on

24           A The current cost of electricity consumed by residential, commercial and industrial  
25 electricity customers in the State,

26           B The projected costs of electricity consumed by residential, commercial and  
27 industrial electricity customers in the State, and

28           C The availability, sustainability and stability of electricity available to customers in  
29 the State, with specific consideration of automobile drivers and public transportation  
30 systems in the State that rely on electric vehicles,

31           2 Identify and explain the technological, timing and financial challenges to achieving  
32 the state energy goals, specifically addressing upgrades to the electrical grid and  
33 improvements in electricity storage capacity necessary to accommodate the projected  
34 increases in electricity demand due to electric vehicles, heat pumps and other electric  
35 appliances,

36           3 Evaluate the ability of the State to manage the electric system to prevent brownouts  
37 or blackouts in the event energy sources currently relied upon to prevent these events  
38 become unavailable,

39           4 Identify and consider the total costs, including who will be responsible for the costs,  
40 associated with the following

41           A The eventual disposal of minerals and materials used in the production of renewable  
42 energy products or the costs, if any, of decommissioning renewable energy projects,

1 B Federal and state tax credits or other incentives for electric vehicles, heat pumps,  
2 solar and wind energy projects and all other items for which a tax credit or other  
3 incentive has been awarded, including projected costs in the future for these tax credits  
4 and other incentives, and

5 C The State's net energy billing program, including the current and projected costs to  
6 electric ratepayers,

7 5 Consider the effects of the state energy goals on the State's wildlife and other natural  
8 resources,

9 6 Consider the effects, if any, that any increased costs identified in this section will  
10 have on the State's ability to compete in regional, national and global marketplaces and the  
11 effects the increased costs would have on the State's workforce,

12 7 Consider the security of sources of electrical generation and related infrastructure,  
13 including but not limited to offshore wind energy projects and transmission and distribution  
14 systems, from domestic or foreign sabotage and evaluate how the State can ensure that  
15 sufficient electricity resources are available, and

16 8 Consider any additional factors or information that the commission determines  
17 necessary to complete its comprehensive analysis of the state energy goals

18 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
19 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that  
20 Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or  
21 special session

22 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission  
23 shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
24 The report must include the commission's findings and recommendations and may include  
25 suggested legislation and recommendations regarding a comprehensive, long-term energy  
26 plan for the State

27 **Sec. 8. Consultant funding. Resolved:** That the commission may seek outside  
28 professional assistance with the procurement and analysis of data in connection with its  
29 duties under section 5

30 **Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
31 appropriations and allocations are made

32 **LEGISLATURE**

33 **Study Commissions - Funding 0444**

34 Initiative Provides one-time funding for consulting services for the Commission to Study  
35 Maine's Energy Policies

36	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
37	All Other	\$20,000	\$0
38			
39	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

40

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
2 number to read consecutively

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve that creates  
5 the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies It directs the commission to consider  
6 and analyze the effects of the State's efforts to transition to renewable sources of electrical  
7 generation and to meet its renewable resource electricity goals No later than December 6,  
8 2023, the commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy,  
9 Utilities and Technology including its findings and recommendations The report may  
10 include suggested legislation and recommendations regarding a comprehensive, long-term  
11 energy plan for the State

12 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

13 **(See attached)**



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 442

LR 2091(02)

## An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-123)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

#### Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

#### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$3,750 in fiscal year 2023-24. The Legislature's proposed budget for the 2024-2025 biennium includes \$14,500 in each of fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$2,234 in projected balances from fiscal year 2022-23 and \$36,777 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are 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 study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides a one-time appropriation of \$20,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Legislature for consulting services for the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies. Any additional costs to the Office of the Public Advocate or the Governor's Energy Office from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.