MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from electronic originals (may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1489

H.P. 944

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

Resolve, to Capitalize on Opportunities from Newly Revised Federal Renewable Fuels Standards by Studying the Environmental and Economic Benefits of Electric and Steam Generation Facilities Powered by Biomass

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative THERIAULT of Fort Kent. Cosponsored by Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield.

Sec. 1. Study of biomass-powered combined heat and power facilities.

Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall undertake or contract with appropriate experts for a study of the environmental and economic benefits of electric and steam generation facilities powered by biomass, referred to in this section as "CHP facilities." The study must examine the benefits resulting from 20 megawatts, 40 megawatts and 60 megawatts, respectively, of electric generation, capacity and thermal energy from CHP facilities. The study must examine, at a minimum, the potential benefits of CHP facilities related to:

- A. Qualifying for renewable energy credits for electricity and thermal energy from federal agencies;
- B. Meeting base load supply, capacity and reliability needs of the electric grid;
- C. The potential for supporting integrated infrastructures that support carbon sequestration and district heating, produce biofuels, such as biodiesel, jet fuel and home heating oil, and service other industrial or commercial enterprises that could productively use the steam or electricity produced by CHP facilities;
- D. Converting forest and lumber mill residuals into usable electricity and steam;
- E. Processing residuals for the production of biochar and graphene and supporting the capture of carbon dioxide;
- F. The potential for improving rural economies, including benefits from the effects on local tax revenues and through the creation of forest-related jobs; and
- G. Reducing carbon emissions from the transportation of biomass and displacement of fossil fuel generation facilities.

The study must also include a full life-cycle analysis of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions resulting from CHP facilities as compared with those resulting from electric generation systems that rely on other renewable resources and systems that rely on fossil fuels.

Sec. 2. Review and report. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall ensure that the results of the study under section 1 are peer-reviewed and shall submit a final report of the results of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

32 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to undertake or contract with appropriate experts for a study of the environmental and economic benefits of electric and steam generation facilities powered by biomass. The study must examine the benefits resulting from 20 megawatts, 40 megawatts and 60 megawatts, respectively, of electric generation, capacity and thermal energy from such facilities. The commission is required to ensure that the study results are peer-reviewed and to submit a final report of the results of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2024. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.