

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1549

H.P. 1001

House of Representatives, April 6, 2023

**An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek
Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in
the State**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAUL of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CAMPBELL of Orrington,
DUNPHY of Embden, FOSTER of Dexter, WALKER of Naples, Senator: HARRINGTON of
York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §123** is enacted to read:

3 **§123. Requests for proposals for operation of small modular nuclear reactor**

4 **1. Small modular nuclear reactor or modular reactor defined.** As used in this
5 section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "small modular nuclear reactor" or
6 "modular reactor" means a nuclear reactor that:

7 A. Has a rated generating capacity of no more than 350 megawatts;

8 B. Is capable of being constructed and operated at a single site on its own or in
9 combination with one or more nuclear reactors; and

10 C. Is required to be licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

11 **2. Requests for proposals for information.** By October 1st of each year, the
12 commission shall issue a request for proposals soliciting informational bids regarding the
13 operation in this State of a small modular nuclear reactor. The informational bids must
14 include the costs of establishing a modular reactor in the State, either through manufacture
15 on-site or transport into the State, the proposed location of a modular reactor, the time
16 needed to establish a modular reactor in the State, the annual operational costs of a modular
17 reactor and any other information the commission determines necessary. The bids are not
18 binding on the State or the person submitting the bid but may be used to inform and develop
19 a contract for the establishment in the State of a modular reactor.

20 **3. Annual report.** Beginning in 2024, by January 15th annually, the commission shall
21 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy
22 and utility matters a report regarding the informational bids received by the commission
23 pursuant to its requests for proposals made pursuant to subsection 2. The joint standing
24 committee may report out legislation based on the report.

25 **4. Termination.** This section is repealed January 1, 2034 or when the State accepts a
26 bid for the placement of a small modular nuclear reactor, whichever occurs first.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually issue a request for
29 informational bids for the establishment in the State of a small modular nuclear reactor,
30 which is a nuclear reactor that has a rated generating capacity of no more than 350
31 megawatts, is capable of being constructed and operated at a single site on its own or in
32 combination with one or more nuclear reactors and is required to be licensed by the United
33 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The requests are for information only, including
34 the timing for establishing a modular reactor and the cost, location and annual operating
35 costs of a modular reactor, and are not binding on the State or the person submitting the
36 information, but may be used in developing a contract. The commission is required to
37 make an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
38 over energy and utility matters detailing the informational bids received.