

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/1/24

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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1413, L.D. 2205, "Resolve, to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Feasibility Study to Evaluate Transmission Technologies and Siting Locations for Any Future Electric Transmission Line Proposed Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'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 Governor's Energy Office needs sufficient time to conduct the study directed by this legislation and must commence its work as soon as possible; and

Whereas, the matters to be studied by the office implicate critical and pressing issues related to the effects of climate change on the State, its communities and its environment and natural resources; and

Whereas, the results of this study could have implications for electric transmission infrastructure procurements in the near future; 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. Study of future electric transmission infrastructure needs. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall conduct a study of matters related to the State's future electric transmission infrastructure needs. The study must include a review of:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 1. Existing processes for the siting and permitting of new and upgraded electric
2 transmission infrastructure in the State, including opportunities for public engagement and
3 methods for efficiently meeting permitting or regulatory requirements;

4 2. Best practices related to electric transmission planning, siting, permitting and
5 community engagement from other states or regions, including consideration of different
6 types of state siting authorities and consideration of the potential for the sharing of electric
7 transmission infrastructure costs with other states;

8 3. Existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to
9 integrate new renewable resources as well as to ensure reliability, improve market
10 efficiency or support the achievement of the State's policy goals, including the goals
11 established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection
12 1-A; Title 35-A, section 3404; Title 35-A, chapter 38; and Title 38, section 576-A;

13 4. Types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights-
14 of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State, including colocation
15 with transportation, electric transmission and railway rights-of-way; and

16 5. Existing and emerging technology and construction methods, such as grid-enhancing
17 technologies, advanced conductors and so-called strategic undergrounding, including a
18 cost-benefit analysis comparing buried high-voltage direct current lines with aerial high-
19 voltage alternating current lines and aerial high-voltage direct current lines.

20 **Sec. 2. Stakeholder coordination. Resolved:** That the office shall coordinate
21 with state agencies involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric transmission
22 infrastructure and solicit information from a stakeholder group to assist in conducting the
23 study under section 1. The office shall hold at least one meeting with the stakeholder group,
24 which must include, but is not limited to:

25 1. A representative of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future;

26 2. A representative of the Public Utilities Commission;

27 3. A representative of the Department of Economic and Community Development;

28 4. A representative of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

29 5. A representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;

30 6. A representative of the Department of Environmental Protection;

31 7. An individual who is a licensed engineer employed by the Department of
32 Transportation;

33 8. An individual who is a licensed engineer employed in the private sector;

34 9. An individual who is a licensed real estate appraiser employed in the private sector;

35 10. An individual representing the Northern Maine Independent System
36 Administrator;

37 11. An individual representing the equity subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council
38 established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 577-A;

39 12. An individual representing the interests of private landowners in the State;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 13. Two individuals representing each of the 2 investor-owned transmission and
2 distribution utilities in the State;

3 14. An individual representing consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities
4 in the State; and

5 15. An individual representing an electric transmission line developer.

6 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, by September 1, 2025, the office shall submit a
7 report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility
8 matters that includes an overview of the study findings pursuant to section 1 along with
9 any recommendations. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the
10 Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

11 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
12 appropriations and allocations are made.

13 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

14 **Governor's Energy Office Z122**

15 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted consulting services to complete a study
16 of matters related to the future of electric transmission infrastructure needs in the State.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 17 GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 18 All Other | \$0 | \$150,000 |
| 19 | | |
| 20 GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$150,000</u> |

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

23 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
24 section number to read consecutively.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the resolve, adds an emergency preamble and clause and
27 changes the title. It directs the Governor's Energy Office to conduct a study of matters
28 related to the State's future electric transmission infrastructure needs. It requires the office
29 to coordinate with state agencies involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric
30 transmission infrastructure and solicit information from a stakeholder group to assist in
31 conducting the study. It requires the office to submit a report by September 1, 2025 to the
32 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters that
33 includes an overview of the study findings along with any recommendations. It provides
34 that the committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session
35 of the 132nd Legislature.

36 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
37 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2205

LR 3013(02)

Resolve, to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Feasibility Study to Evaluate Transmission Technologies and Siting Locations for Any Future Electric Transmission Line Proposed Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-909)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2023-24 | FY 2024-25 | Projections FY 2025-26 | Projections FY 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net Cost (Savings) | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$150,000 | \$0 | |
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$150,000 | \$0 | \$0 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the Governor's Energy Office of \$150,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 for contracted consulting services to complete a study of matters related to the State's transmission infrastructure needs. Any additional costs to other state agencies to participate in a stakeholder group are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.