

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 scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 11

House of Representatives, Jan. 16, 1929.

Read and on motion of Mr. Aldrich of Topsham tabled pending passage and 1,000 ordered printed.

Presented by Mr. Aldrich of Topsham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE

JOINT ORDER Relative to Water Power Investigation

WHEREAS, since 1909, it has been the policy of the State of Maine to prohibit the export from the State of electric energy generated from the inland water powers of the State; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State and the Legislature have been urged by interested parties to change the said policy of the State and to permit of the exportation from the State of electric energy so generated; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty exists as to the legal rights of the State relative to the control of such electric energy so generated if the policy of the State is so changed as to permit of expor-

tation of such electric energy ; and

WHEREAS, the possible effect of such a change of policy as has been suggested upon industrial conditions in the State and upon the rates charged for electric energy used within the State for commercial and domestic uses is a matter of grave concern to the citizens of the State ; and

WHEREAS, the question of further, proper and more complete distribution of electricity to the rural and agricultural sections of the State is intimately connected with and may be seriously affected by the proposed change of policy, if adopted ; and

WHEREAS, involved in the situation, if a change of policy is made, is the question of how and under what conditions industries having water powers may profitably dispose of surplus electric energy generated therefrom, which question should be thoroughly studied for the protection of such industries ; and

WHEREAS, the development of the power industry in the State and the increase in use of electricity within the State induce an inquiry as to how soon all potential undeveloped hydro-electric power in the State may be needed by the normal demands of the State, the answer to which is of the highest importance to the citizens of the State ; and

WHEREAS, in deciding whether or not such proposal to change the policy of the State should be granted, knowledge should be had concerning the method by which electricity to be exported from the State is to reach the ultimate consumer, and what proportion of ultimate profits from the sale of such

electricity will find its way to the transmission company of this State by which the export of such electricity will be started; as well as concerning the relations which will exist among the various corporate units which will be utilized for transmitting such electricity to its destination; and .

WHEREAS, before such proposed change of policy is determined information should be had as to the type and term of contract which will have to be made by a transmission company of this state to profitably export hydro-electric energy; and

WHEREAS, if such change of policy is to be considered, an understanding should be had as to the proportional part of the total cost of generating electric energy in the State which is to be allocated to that part of such total electric energy as may be exported from the State, in order that rates for electric energy used within the State may be correspondingly reduced; and

WHEREAS, if such proposal is to be granted, a study should be made to determine the value of the privilege which the State would thereby grant, to the end that the State may receive adequate compensation therefor; and

WHEREAS, it is essential, before changing the present policy of the State, to have a thorough understanding of the probable effect of the proposed change in any and all ways upon the State and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the platform of the Republican party which was overwhelmingly approved by the citizens of the State at

the Fall election contained a recommendation that this Legislature conduct an investigation of the Water Power Question of the State before legislating in respect thereto:

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that a recess committee consisting of ten citizens of this state to be named by the Governor be, and the same hereby is, appointed with full power to thoroughly study, investigate and consider in all aspects the question of permitting the export from the state of electric energy generated from the inland water powers of the state; and particularly to make such investigation from the viewpoint of the interest of the state of Maine. Said committee shall report the result of such investigation, with its recommendations, to a special session of this legislature, or to the regular session of the Eighty-fifth Legislature. Any vacancies occurring in said committee shall be filled by the Governor. Said committee is hereby empowered to employ counsel, auditors, engineers and any others who may be required to assist it in its work, or whose opinions in respect to the problems involved may be deemed of value. The members of said committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred.

Said committee shall have the power to subpoena and compel the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of books, books of account, records and papers and writings of every description and to compel the giving of evidence by anyone so subpoenaed. It shall have the power

6 to issue commissions for the taking of testimony within or
7 without the state and to make rules governing the same.

Said committee shall have the power to punish for con-
2 tempt for disobedience of its orders hereby authorized.
3 Said committee shall be the sole judge of the relevancy of
4 any evidence desired by it in connection with its investiga-
5 tion.

The expense of such investigation shall be paid for from
2 funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.