

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 118

S. P. 323

In Senate, February 6, 1929.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities, Judiciary and Interior Waters jointly and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Oakes of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Create a Commission to Investigate and to Negotiate a Compact, Regarding Water Power and Electricity in New England.

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

The governor and council shall appoint five commissioners
2 who shall represent the State of Maine upon a joint com-
3 mission composed of commissioners representing the states
4 of Maine and New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of
5 Massachusetts, to be constituted by the legislatures thereof,
6 upon which joint commission similar commissioners of the
7 states of Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut shall also

8 be invited to be members and act, for the purpose of nego-
9 tiating and entering into a compact, agreement or treaty
10 between said states and said commonwealth, with the con-
11 sent of Congress, to cover comprehensively all matters
12 relating to the conservation, use and development of the
13 water power resources of said states and said common-
14 wealth and the making, generating, selling, transmitting,
15 distributing and supplying of hydro-electricity and electric-
16 ity otherwise developed. Provided, however, that any com-
17 pact, agreement or treaty so entered into on behalf of said
18 states and said commonwealth shall not be binding or ob-
19 ligatory upon any of said states or said commonwealth or
20 the citizens thereof, unless and until the same shall have
21 been ratified and approved by the legislatures of said states
22 and said commonwealth and by the Congress of the United
23 States.

Such joint commission shall report the terms of such com-
2 pact, agreement or treaty as made and agreed upon to said
3 legislatures and shall recommend such legislation, both state
4 and federal, as may be necessary to render such compact,
5 agreement or treaty effective.

Such commissioners shall select one of their number to
2 be chairman of the joint commission, and may employ a
3 secretary and such engineering, legal and other professional
4 assistance and such stenographic and clerical help as may
5 be required, to enable them effectively to prosecute and
6 advance the negotiations herein provided for.

The commissioners appointed for the State of Maine prior
2 to and during the negotiations herein set forth shall, as a
3 part of their duties, conduct a thorough investigation of
4 the economic, engineering and legal problems involved in
5 determining upon the terms and conditions of said compact
6 and of any other legislation that may be required to safe-
7 guard the rights and privileges of the citizens of this state
8 relating to the transmitting of electricity beyond the bound-
9 ary of the state and avoid relinquishing any portion of the
10 control, jurisdiction and regulation of the State of Maine
11 over the hydro-electric resources within its borders and
12 shall report the result of their investigation together with
13 their recommendations, to the governor and council, who
14 shall transmit the same to the legislature. For the purposes
15 set forth in this paragraph they shall employ such engineer-
16 ing, legal and other assistance, independent of the assist-
17 ance of the joint commission, as may be required.

Such commissioners shall be paid the necessary expenses
2 incurred in the performance of their duties, but shall serve
3 without compensation.

The sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or so much
2 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for
3 the expense of the commission, for each of the fiscal years
4 ending June thirty, nineteen hundred thirty, and June thirty,
5 nineteen hundred thirty-one, to be paid by the state treasurer
6 monthly on vouchers approved by the governor and council.

Neither the creation of such commission nor any act there-

2 of shall affect the existing law or policy of the state regard-
3 ing water power or electricity until the ratification of their
4 proceedings as hereinbefore provided for.