

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 29, 2021

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2022 to May 9, 2022

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
DECEMBER 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 8, 2022

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2022

Communication Bureau, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters. The committee may report out related legislation to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 163
H.P. 1433 - L.D. 1926

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
301: Fee Schedule and
Administrative Procedures for
Payment of Commission
Assigned Counsel, a Major
Substantive Rule of the Maine
Commission on Indigent Legal
Services**

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 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 301: Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Commission Assigned Counsel, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

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

Effective April 20, 2022.

CHAPTER 164
H.P. 222 - L.D. 318

**Resolve, To Direct the Office of
the Public Advocate To Study
Reforming Maine's System of
Retail Electricity Supply To
Provide More Options to
Maine Customers and Support
Maine's Climate Goals**

Sec. 1. Public Advocate to conduct study on reform of retail electricity supply. Resolved: That the Office of the Public Advocate shall conduct a study of options for reforming the State's current system of retail electricity supply in ways that will provide greater competition among retail electricity supply providers and more options and protections for customers, including access to renewable and clean energy supply options. The office shall examine options relating to the State's standard offer system for facilitating the achievement of the State's climate goals and beneficial electrification. In conducting the study, the Public Advocate shall consult with the Public Utilities Commission, the Governor's Energy Office and stakeholders, including but not limited to advocates for low-income persons, appropriate representatives of the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, representatives of disadvantaged groups, representatives of small and large businesses and industries, advocates for the environment and renewable energy, representatives of retail electricity supply providers and representatives of transmission and distribution utilities. The Public Advocate may also consult with other agencies and organizations, including but not limited to the Office of the Attorney General and the Efficiency Maine Trust. For the purposes of this resolve, "beneficial electrification" means electrification of a technology that results in reduction in the use of a fossil fuel, including electrification of a technology that would otherwise require energy from a fossil fuel, and that provides a benefit to a utility, a ratepayer or the environment, without causing harm to utilities, ratepayers or the environment, by improving the efficiency of the electricity grid or reducing consumer costs or emissions, including carbon emissions.

Sec. 2. Authority to retain consultant with regard to study on reform of retail electricity supply. Resolved: That, in conducting the study under section 1, the Public Advocate may retain one or more consultants, including, to the greatest extent possible, persons from academic or research institutions in the State for analysis and report preparation.

Sec. 3. Issues to be reviewed as part of study on reform of retail electricity supply. Resolved: That, in conducting the study under section 1, the Public Advocate shall ensure that, at a minimum, the following issues are examined.