

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

**CHAPTER 66
S.P. 395 - L.D. 924**

Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

Sec. 1. Legislative approval of high-impact transmission line. Resolved: That the Legislature:

1. Finds the 1,200-megawatt capacity, 345-kilovolt transmission line and associated interconnection facilities approved by the Public Utilities Commission in orders issued November 1, 2022 and February 3, 2023, in Docket No. 2021-00369, referred to in this resolve as "the transmission project," is consistent with the intent and achieves the objectives of the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-I, referred to in this resolve as "the program," and that the transmission project will allow the State to achieve the objectives of the program and thereby assist the State in meeting its energy, greenhouse gas reduction and economic development policies and goals; and
2. Finds that the transmission project is a high-impact electric transmission line, as defined in Title 35-A, section 3131, subsection 4-A; and
3. Approves the construction of the transmission project as a high-impact electric transmission line pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C.

Sec. 2. Public lands. Resolved: That, while the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C provides that any high-impact electric transmission line crossing or utilizing public lands designated by the Legislature pursuant to Title 12, section 598-A is deemed to substantially alter the land and must be approved by the vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature, the Legislature finds that the route of the transmission project has not been finalized so it is unknown whether the transmission project will cross or utilize such designated lands and as a result, the Legislature does not by the passage

of this resolve provide such approval for any crossing or utilization of such designated lands.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 67
H.P. 599 - L.D. 952**

Resolve, to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid

Sec. 1. Distribution system operator for the State. Resolved: That, by January 1, 2024, the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall issue a request for proposals and select a 3rd-party consultant, referred to in this resolve as "the consultant," that meets the requirements of section 5, to conduct a 2-part study regarding the establishment of a distribution system operator. For the purposes of this resolve, "distribution system operator," or "DSO," means an entity designed to serve the following roles for the State:

1. Oversee integrated system planning for all electric grids in the State, including coordinating energy planning efforts across state agencies;
2. Operate all electric grids in the State to ensure optimum operations, efficiency, equity, affordability, reliability and customer service;
3. Administer an open and transparent market for distributed energy resources; and
4. Facilitate the achievement of the greenhouse gas reduction obligations and climate policies pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 576-A and section 577, subsection 1.

The office shall ensure meaningful opportunities for stakeholder engagement to inform the consultant's work at appropriate times during each part of the study.

Sec. 2. DSO initial study. Resolved: That the consultant selected by the office shall conduct an initial study to evaluate whether a DSO could be designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. A demonstrable reduction in electricity costs for customers;
2. Improved electric system reliability and performance in the State; and
3. Accelerated achievement of the State's climate goals and growth of distributed energy resources.

The consultant's initial study under this section must include a conclusion regarding whether a DSO can be designed to achieve the objectives identified in this section. The consultant shall provide its initial study to the office for review.