

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,
UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

December 2021

STAFF:

DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LD 336 An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 327 directs the Public Utilities Commission to require the negotiation of a long-term contract for the design, permitting, construction and operation of the State's proposed floating offshore wind research array between the developer of the research array and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. It specifies that the commission must require the execution of a project labor agreement containing certain terms and conditions by any entity with which the commission directs an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract for capacity, energy or renewable energy credits.

This law includes a legislative finding that a long-term contract between an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility and New England Aqua Ventus, LLC for capacity, energy and renewable energy credits generated from a floating offshore wind research array is in the public interest and is in furtherance of existing State laws and policies. It requires the commission, if it would be in the public interest and in furtherance of existing State laws and policies, to order the negotiation of a long-term contract between a utility and New England Aqua Ventus, LLC within nine months of the effective date of the law. It places certain terms and conditions on any negotiations or long-term contracts the commission may order, including: the invitation of the Office of the Public Advocate and the Governor's Energy Office to participate in the negotiations; the retention by the commission, at the developer's expense, of expert consultants; the use of a project labor agreement with requirements; and specific requirements for any pricing structure adopted within a power purchase agreement.

The law requires the commission, in consultation with the Public Advocate and Governor's Energy Office, to submit a report, by February 1, 2022, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology regarding technology, location and other options for the creation of transmission infrastructure related to the deployment of offshore wind energy generation in the Gulf of Maine. It allows the committee to report out a bill based on the report.

LD 340 An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 142 allows the Efficiency Maine Trust or a municipality to establish a commercial property assessed clean energy program to finance energy savings improvements on qualifying property.