

LD 307 Concept Draft Amendment

Sponsor: Representative Sachs

DRAFT DATE: 01/30/26

For public hearing on February 5, 2026

NEW Title: Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council

Sec. 1. Establishment of the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council.

Resolved: That the Department of Energy Resources shall convene the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council, referred to in this resolve as “the council,” to provide strategic input, facilitate coordinated state planning considerations and evaluate policy tools to address artificial intelligence data center opportunities and related benefits and risks to the State.

Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the council shall evaluate issues related to artificial intelligence data centers, referred to in this resolve as “AI data centers,” located or proposed to be located in the State, with the goals of protecting ratepayers, maintaining electric grid reliability, minimizing environmental impacts and enabling responsible and appropriately sited economic development. In conducting its evaluation, the council shall consider the State’s policy goals related to renewable energy in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, greenhouse gas reduction objectives, including those in Title 38, section 576-A, goals for broadband service established in Title 35-A, section 9202-A, the state economic development strategy and the legislative findings described in Title 38, section 480-A.

In carrying out its work, the council shall:

1. Define “AI data centers” for the purpose of the council’s work and final strategy report and assess current and projected trends in inquiries or proposals to develop such facilities in the State;
2. Review and consider legislation related to AI data centers considered or adopted in other states;
3. Evaluate projections of electric load growth, infrastructure needs and system reliability and resource adequacy impacts associated with AI data centers in Maine and the ISO-New England region;
4. Identify strategies to protect ratepayers from negative financial effects resulting from AI data centers including, but not limited to, cost-allocation approaches, rate design changes, impact fees, efficiency standards, energy supply obligations and demand response and load flexibility during periods of high demand or grid emergencies;
5. Assess potential environmental and natural resource impacts including, but not limited to, water use, emissions, land use and other impacts on host communities, and identify strategies to minimize adverse impacts;
6. Consider data sharing requirements and processes for proposed AI data centers, including use of non-disclosure agreements and identify information essential to grid operators, electric utilities, state agencies and policymakers regarding electric load, peak demand, water use and other operational characteristics necessary to inform state and local planning;
7. Offer guidance to assist municipalities in assessing potential AI data center impacts and benefits; and
8. Develop recommendations to clarify roles, responsibilities, information-sharing practices and timelines among state agencies, utilities, municipalities and other governmental entities to

support coordinated, timely and well-informed responses to AI data center development inquiries.

Sec. 3. Council Membership. Resolved: That the Council shall be chaired by the Commissioner of Energy Resources or the commissioner's designee and include the following 12 individuals:

1. The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs or the director's designee;
2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;
3. The Public Advocate or the Public Advocate's designee;
4. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee;
5. The President of the Maine Connectivity Authority or the president's designee;
6. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;
7. A representative of the Maine Municipal Association appointed by the Commissioner of Energy Resources;
8. One representative each from the two investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the state and one member representing the interests of cooperative and municipally-owned utilities in the state appointed by the Commissioner of Energy Resources;
9. One representative of an environmental advocacy organization appointed by the Commissioner of Energy Resources; and
10. One representative of organized labor appointed by the Commissioner of Energy Resources.

The Commissioner of Energy Resources may invite additional agency representatives, experts or stakeholders to provide comment or provide assistance to the commission as the commissioner determines appropriate to address technical, economic and environmental factors of AI data center development.

Sec. 4. Meetings; public comment. Resolved: That the council shall hold at least 5 meetings. The council shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the council's draft findings prior to submitting the final strategy report described in section 5.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That, by February 1, 2027, the council shall submit a final strategy report with the findings of its evaluation and recommendations developed in accordance with section 2, including any proposed legislation, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and changes the title. It requires the Department of Energy Resources to convene the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council to provide strategic input, facilitate coordinated state planning considerations and evaluate policy tools to address artificial intelligence data center opportunities and related benefits and risks to the State. By February 1, 2027, the council is required to submit a final strategy report including the findings of its evaluation and recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.