

Date: (Filing No. H-)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 377, L.D. 609, “An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government”

Amend the amendment by inserting after Part TT the following:

'PART UU

Sec. UU-1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 477, §1, is repealed.

Sec. UU-2. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 660, §7, is further amended to read:

B. The commission shall evaluate the proposals received based, at a minimum, on the following factors: cost, economic benefit to northern Maine, the qualifications of the bidder or bidders, and the long-term viability of each proposal ~~and the anticipated contribution of each proposal toward the achievement by the State of its renewable energy goals under section 3210~~. The commission shall disqualify any proposal that, in the commission's determination, fails to demonstrate the bidder's technical and financial capacity to successfully construct, develop and operate the transmission line or lines described in this subsection and to pursue, negotiate and contract for its interconnection with the ISO-New England system.

Sec. UU-3. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 660, §7, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) In the commission's determination, in the aggregate with proposals received under subsection 3, demonstrate the most cost-effective and efficient transmission access to renewable energy resources in northern Maine in a manner ~~that best supports the achievement of the State's renewable energy goals under section 3210~~ and that maximize maximizes benefits to the State;

Sec. UU-4. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§3, ¶D, as amended by PL 2023, c. 660, §8, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) In the commission's determination, in the aggregate with proposals received under subsection 2, demonstrate the most cost-effective and efficient development of renewable energy resources in northern Maine in a manner that ~~best supports~~

1 ~~the achievement of the State's renewable energy goals under section 3210 and~~
2 ~~maximize~~ maximizes benefits to the State; and

3 **Sec. UU-5. 35-A MRSA §3407, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §5, is
4 amended to read:

5 **1. Program established.** The Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and
6 Economic Development Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established
7 to further the development and use of offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine.
8 The office, in collaboration with the commission, shall administer the program in
9 accordance with this section and shall ensure that the program is designed to advance the
10 greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations and climate policies of this State under
11 Title 38, section 576-A and Title 38, section 577, ~~the renewable energy goals established~~
12 ~~in section 3210, subsection 1-A~~ and all applicable workforce development efforts of this
13 State. Under the program, the office, in collaboration with the commission, shall:

14 A. Encourage the responsible development of offshore wind power projects to stabilize
15 energy supply prices, reduce this State's reliance on imported fossil fuels, realize direct
16 and near-term economic benefits for the people of this State and ensure the
17 achievement of this State's wind energy generation goal established in section 3404,
18 subsection 2;

19 B. Support offshore wind power projects that result in long-term, family-supporting
20 careers, including for disadvantaged populations and communities;

21 C. Support responsibly sited and operated offshore wind power projects that avoid or
22 minimize and compensate for impacts to wildlife, habitat, fisheries and coastal
23 communities in the Gulf of Maine;

24 D. Support efforts to increase understanding of impacts of offshore wind power
25 projects on the marine environment and to advance research to better understand how
26 offshore wind power projects can coexist with minimal impact to existing ocean users,
27 wildlife, fisheries and the marine environment;

28 E. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the development of offshore wind power
29 projects with particular consideration given to the energy and economic circumstances
30 and opportunities in coastal and socially vulnerable communities and for the federally
31 recognized Indian tribes in this State. For the purposes of this paragraph, "socially
32 vulnerable communities" means those communities containing populations that are
33 disproportionately burdened by existing social inequities or lack the capacity to
34 withstand new or worsening burdens;

35 F. Support the advancement of port infrastructure, local offshore wind power-related
36 economic development and the development of a supply chain to support the
37 development of offshore wind power projects;

38 G. Support the development and deployment of innovative technologies to achieve the
39 energy policy and economic development objectives of this State, including energy
40 storage;

41 H. Support the use of Maine-based technical and engineering expertise and build on
42 this State's leadership in offshore wind power, maritime industries and research and
43 development;

I. Support the development of transmission infrastructure necessary for this State to expeditiously meet its renewable energy and climate goals, including advancing the development of shared or regional offshore wind power transmission infrastructure;

J. Collaborate with other states or entities when appropriate on regional issues, including, but not limited to, transmission, procurement, supply chain and workforce development and research and monitoring relating to wildlife, fisheries and the Gulf of Maine ecosystem;

K. Support responsibly sited offshore wind power projects with generation facilities located in areas outside of the area of the Gulf of Maine where the majority of lobster fishing or other significant commercial fishing occurs;

L. Coordinate the activities of state agencies that are affected by the development of offshore wind power projects, including, but not limited to, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Labor, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection; and

M. Support the development of deep-water offshore wind power projects and transmission infrastructure in the Gulf of Maine that serve the public interest by advancing the renewable energy and climate policies and economic development goals of this State and helping to reduce energy price volatility.

Sec. UU-6. 35-A MRSA §3409, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §7, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Seek to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations and climate policies of this State under Title 38, section 576-A and Title 38, section 577 ~~and renewable energy goals under section 3210, subsection 1-A;~~

Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment repeals the law establishing the State's renewable energy goals and amends other provisions of law to remove cross-references to the renewable energy goals.

SPONSORED BY: _____

(Representative LIBBY, L.)

TOWN: Auburn