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Date: (Filing No. H-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 275, L.D. 442, “An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

- 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 3. One member representing an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4. One member representing the interests of competitive electricity providers using hydroelectric generators or natural gas as a source of electrical generation, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 5. Two members representing the interests of competitive electricity providers using renewable resources as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C as a source of electrical generation, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 6. One member qualified as an economist and familiar with electricity generation and distribution, appointed by the Governor;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 7. Two members representing residential electricity customer interests, appointed by
2 the Governor;

3 8. One member representing commercial or industrial electricity customer interests,
4 appointed by the President of the Senate;

5 9. One member representing the public appointed by the Public Advocate; and

6 10. One member representing the Governor's Energy Office, appointed by the
7 Governor.

8 **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named
9 Senate member is the chair of the commission.

10 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
11 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
12 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
13 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
14 the chair shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
15 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
16 made, the chair may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
17 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

18 **Sec. 5. Meetings; duties. Resolved:** That the commission is authorized to meet 5
19 times to consider and analyze the effects of the State's efforts to transition to renewable
20 sources of electrical generation and to meet its renewable resource electricity goals,
21 established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 1-A,
22 referred to in this resolve as "the state energy goals." The commission shall:

23 1. Analyze the effect of the state energy goals on:

24 A. The current cost of electricity consumed by residential, commercial and industrial
25 electricity customers in the State;

26 B. The projected costs of electricity consumed by residential, commercial and
27 industrial electricity customers in the State; and

28 C. The availability, sustainability and stability of electricity available to customers in
29 the State, with specific consideration of automobile drivers and public transportation
30 systems in the State that rely on electric vehicles;

31 2. Identify and explain the technological, timing and financial challenges to achieving
32 the state energy goals, specifically addressing upgrades to the electrical grid and
33 improvements in electricity storage capacity necessary to accommodate the projected
34 increases in electricity demand due to electric vehicles, heat pumps and other electric
35 appliances;

36 3. Evaluate the ability of the State to manage the electric system to prevent brownouts
37 or blackouts in the event energy sources currently relied upon to prevent these events
38 become unavailable;

39 4. Identify and consider the total costs, including who will be responsible for the costs,
40 associated with the following:

41 A. The eventual disposal of minerals and materials used in the production of renewable
42 energy products or the costs, if any, of decommissioning renewable energy projects;

1 B. Federal and state tax credits or other incentives for electric vehicles, heat pumps,
2 solar and wind energy projects and all other items for which a tax credit or other
3 incentive has been awarded, including projected costs in the future for these tax credits
4 and other incentives; and

5 C. The State's net energy billing program, including the current and projected costs to
6 electric ratepayers;

7 5. Consider the effects of the state energy goals on the State's wildlife and other natural
8 resources;

9 6. Consider the effects, if any, that any increased costs identified in this section will
10 have on the State's ability to compete in regional, national and global marketplaces and the
11 effects the increased costs would have on the State's workforce;

12 7. Consider the security of sources of electrical generation and related infrastructure,
13 including but not limited to offshore wind energy projects and transmission and distribution
14 systems, from domestic or foreign sabotage and evaluate how the State can ensure that
15 sufficient electricity resources are available; and

16 8. Consider any additional factors or information that the commission determines
17 necessary to complete its comprehensive analysis of the state energy goals.

18 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
19 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that
20 Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or
21 special session.

22 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission
23 shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.
24 The report must include the commission's findings and recommendations and may include
25 suggested legislation and recommendations regarding a comprehensive, long-term energy
26 plan for the State.

27 **Sec. 8. Consultant funding. Resolved:** That the commission may seek outside
28 professional assistance with the procurement and analysis of data in connection with its
29 duties under section 5.

30 **Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
31 appropriations and allocations are made.

32 **LEGISLATURE**

33 **Study Commissions - Funding 0444**

34 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for consulting services for the Commission to Study
35 Maine's Energy Policies.

36 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
37 All Other	\$20,000	\$0
38		
39 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

40 ,

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve that creates
5 the Commission to Study Maine's Energy Policies. It directs the commission to consider
6 and analyze the effects of the State's efforts to transition to renewable sources of electrical
7 generation and to meet its renewable resource electricity goals. No later than December 6,
8 2023, the commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy,
9 Utilities and Technology including its findings and recommendations. The report may
10 include suggested legislation and recommendations regarding a comprehensive, long-term
11 energy plan for the State.

12 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
13 **(See attached)**