**An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. 35-A MRSA §3210-H** is enacted to read:

**§****3210-H.** **Offshore wind energy research**

An entity seeking to undertake research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects pursuant to 30 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 585 on the outer continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine may petition the commission to enter into or to order an entity to enter into any long-term contracts to facilitate that research. Consistent with the legislative findings and goals of the Maine Wind Energy Act and with the regulations regarding renewable energy and alternate uses of existing facilities on the outer continental shelf adopted by the federal Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in 30 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 585, the commission shall negotiate and, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into or, consistent with authority granted under this Title, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate that research.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate and, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into or, consistent with authority granted under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects on the outer continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine.