

## **132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

**Legislative Document** 

No. 300

H.P. 200

House of Representatives, February 3, 2025

Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State

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R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell. Cosponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney.

- 1 **Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission to conduct studies. Resolved:** That the 2 Public Utilities Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," shall conduct 3 studies as directed by this resolve to support the development of a balanced portfolio of 4 energy sources in the State.
- 5 **Sec. 2. Study; hydroelectric power facilities. Resolved:** That the commission 6 shall conduct a study reviewing the current operation of and opportunities for the expansion 7 of hydroelectric power in the State for the purpose of evaluating methods to revitalize the 8 hydroelectric power industry. In conducting this study, the commission shall:
- 9 1. Review the current operation of all existing hydroelectric power facilities in the 10 State;
- 2. Evaluate whether and how existing hydroelectric power facilities could be expanded
   or relocated;
- 3. Research and evaluate whether any decommissioned hydroelectric power facilities
  or sites of former hydroelectric power facilities could be effectively restored, particularly
  with new technology; and
- 4. Review new technologies being used in hydroelectric power facilities in other states
  and evaluate whether those technologies could be used in this State to improve or expand
  the hydroelectric power industry. In carrying out this review, the commission may consult
  with hydroelectric power facilities in other states.
- 20 Sec. 3. Study; geothermal power plant. Resolved: That the commission shall 21 conduct a study for the purpose of developing a geothermal power plant in this State. For 22 the purposes of this resolve, "geothermal power plant" means a power plant that uses heat 23 from the earth to generate electricity.
- Sec. 4. Reports. Resolved: That, no later than November 4, 2026, the commission shall submit a report based on each study under this resolve, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation pertaining to the reports to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.
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## SUMMARY

- This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct 2 studies related to developing the State's portfolio of energy sources. Under the resolve, the commission must study the current operation of the hydroelectric power industry in this State and evaluate opportunities to expand or relocate existing hydroelectric power facilities. The commission must evaluate how any new technologies being used in other states could be used in this State to improve or expand the hydroelectric power industry and whether any former hydroelectric power facilities could be restored.
- The commission must also conduct a study for the purpose of developing a geothermal
  power plant in this State.
- The commission must submit a report based on each study under this resolve to the
  joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters no later
  than November 4, 2026. The joint standing committee may report out legislation pertaining
  to the reports to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.