



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 601

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H.P. 369

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

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**An Act to Remove State-imposed Referendum Requirements  
Regarding Nuclear Power**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAUL of Winterport.  
Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and  
Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, CAMPBELL of Orrington, FOSTER of Dexter,  
MCINTYRE of Lowell, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA c. 43, sub-c. 1**, as amended, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1474, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 541, §1, is further  
4 amended to read:

5 **2. Ratification.** Except for an agreement with the Southeast Compact Commission  
6 for acceptance through June 30, 1994 of low-level radioactive waste generated by and on  
7 the premises of any facility of the United States Navy in Kittery, Maine, any compact or  
8 agreement with any other state or states or the Federal Government for low-level waste  
9 disposal must be ratified by legislative act ~~and, in accordance with subchapter IV, by the~~  
10 ~~voters of the State.~~

11 **Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1479, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 642, §17, is further  
12 amended to read:

13 Approval under this section does not replace any other license required by law ~~and is~~  
14 ~~in addition to the voter approval required by section 1493.~~

15 **Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §1482, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 642, §20, is further  
16 amended to read:

17 **4. Licensing.** A low-level radioactive waste disposal facility developed in the State  
18 must be licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The facility must  
19 be approved by the Legislature in accordance with section 1479 ~~and approved by the voters~~  
20 ~~in accordance with section 1493.~~

21 **Sec. 5. 38 MRSA c. 14-A, sub-c. 4**, as amended, is repealed.

## 22 SUMMARY

23 This bill removes the requirements that the following may not commence without  
24 approval by the voters by referenda:

- 25 1. Constructing nuclear power plants;
- 26 2. Constructing or operating low-level radioactive waste disposal or storage facilities;  
27 and
- 28 3. Entering into compacts or agreements with other states or the Federal Government  
29 concerning the disposal or storage of low-level radioactive waste.

30 It also repeals and amends provisions of law related to those referendum requirements.