



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 755

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H.P. 535

House of Representatives, March 2, 2017

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**An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Nontransmission Alternatives  
Investigations Required for Proposed Transmission Line Projects**

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Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered  
printed.

*Robert B. Hunt*

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-C, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt.  
3 C, §2, is further amended to read:

4 B. Justification for adoption of the route selected, including comparison with  
5 alternative routes that are environmentally, technically and economically practical;  
6 and

7 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-C, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt.  
8 C, §2, is repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§2-D** is enacted to read:

10 **2-D. Nontransmission alternatives investigation.** In considering whether to  
11 approve or disapprove all or portions of a proposed transmission line pursuant to  
12 subsection 5, the commission shall consider the results of an investigation by an  
13 independent 3rd party, which may be the commission or a contractor selected by the  
14 commission, of nontransmission alternatives to construction of the proposed transmission  
15 line. The investigation must set forth the total projected costs of the transmission line as  
16 well as the total projected costs of the alternatives over the effective life of the proposed  
17 transmission line.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill changes the timing of the nontransmission alternatives investigation required  
20 for proposed transmission line projects. The bill requires the investigation to be done  
21 during the course of the proceeding to consider the petition for approval of a proposed  
22 transmission line instead of being done prior to filing that petition.