APPROVEDCHAPTERJULY 1, 2025116BY GOVERNORRESOLVES

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 878 - L.D. 1355

Resolve, to Require the Governor's Energy Office to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Sec. 1. Governor's Energy Office to examine and evaluate system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and possible adoption of uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office shall examine and evaluate the current system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. The study must include an examination and evaluation of:

1. The current statutory framework for the application of personal and real property taxes on renewable energy infrastructure, including, but not limited to, solar photovoltaic systems, wind energy development and battery energy storage systems;

2. The history of municipal and county taxation of renewable energy infrastructure in the State, as well as in other states;

3. How tax revenue from new renewable energy infrastructure projects may affect state-municipal revenue-sharing formulas, including the effect of renewable energy infrastructure value depreciation;

4. Whether renewable energy infrastructure presents special difficulties with identifying just value;

5. What tax amount per megawatt of electric generation capacity of renewable energy infrastructure projects, if any, would fairly compensate municipalities without making such projects unviable;

6. The current use, complexity, cost and appropriateness of programs such as tax increment financing and credit enhancement agreements for renewable energy infrastructure and whether an alternative program may benefit municipalities, counties and renewable energy infrastructure development in the State; and

7. Whether a uniform taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and exclusion of such revenue from state-municipal revenue-sharing formulas may encourage renewable energy infrastructure development, advance the State's clean energy goals and benefit municipalities and counties in the State.

The Governor's Energy Office shall consult with the Office of Tax Policy, representatives from the renewable energy industry and other experts in the State and municipal and county officials with relevant experience and solicit public comments on the study. No later than November 4, 2026, the Governor's Energy Office shall submit a report, including findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation, based on the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office may receive funds, grants or contributions from public or private sources to carry out the study required under section 1. The Governor's Energy Office shall disclose its sources of funding as part of the report required in section 1. The Governor's Energy Office is not required under this resolve to undertake work for which it does not have or has not received sufficient funding.