

Steven Ingalls
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LD 197

I am in support of L.D. 197, a Resolve to Direct the GEO to Conduct a Study Regarding Future Electric Transmission Infrastructure. This bill is virtually identical to L.D. 2205 that was passed by the House and Senate during the 2024 session. L.D. 2205 did not receive the required funding appropriation, along with many other bills during the 2024 session, so it died. The purpose and importance of this study is no less so today than it was a year ago. It is unfortunate that L.D. 2205 was not funded last year, as we would have received the results of the study in September 2025, rather than September 1, 2026, as proposed in L.D. 197. It is important to note that the September 1, 2026 date ties in with the expected review and decision timeframe for the upcoming NESCOE sponsored transmission RFP that ISO-NE will be issuing soon. Having this study in hand during that RFP review process should be a valuable tool for decision makers and the public. This study will likely also be informative for the public and the PUC, should the PUC issue an RFP for transmission for northern Maine. I request that you again support the intent of this bill and vote ought to pass.