



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Philip L. Bartlett II
CHAIR

Patrick J. Scully
Carolyn C. Gilbert
COMMISSIONERS

Amy Dumeny
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1309, An Act to Increase the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members

April 8, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying neither for nor against LD 1309, An Act to Increase the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

LD 1309 would increase the size of the Commission from three members to five members and requires at least one member to have significant experience in the field of renewable energy development in the State and one member to have significant experience in the field of consumer advocacy or public interest law.

While the Commission has no specific input on the number of members of the Commission, we are providing information regarding the possible financial implications for this proposal for the Committee's consideration. In addition to the two additional salaries and benefits for the Commissioners, if enacted, LD 1309 could also trigger the need to consider staffing at the Commission. Commission staff members' duties include meetings with individual Commissioners, responding to Commissioner questions, and conducting research and analysis as requested by Commissioners. Increasing the number of Commissioners will increase the staff's workload. In many of the states that have five or more Commissioners¹ there is separate staff to serve the Commissioners directly. Without additional staff, or staff specifically designated to serve individual Commissioners, existing staff resources may be stressed, which may slow down the flow of work.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.

¹ 23 States have Commissions with 5 or more members (New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee have 7 members). All New England states, except Connecticut have Commissions with 3 members.