



Mark W. Lawrence
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Mark W. Lawrence presenting

LD 897, An Act Regarding the Calculation of Electric Rate Contracting Costs

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

March 4, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Sachs and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Mark Lawrence, I serve as the State Senator from District 35, which includes Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick and York. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 897, An Act Regarding the Calculation of Electric Rate Contracting Costs. My testimony focuses on the Sponsor's Amendment, which changes the title and provides technical changes.

To start, the amendment changes the bill title to "*An Act Regarding Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission.*" The amendment also changes the requirement for contract provisions governing negative pricing in contracts for energy resulting from competitive solicitations conducted by the Public Utilities Commission.

In the First Regular Session, I sponsored LD 597, which sought to ensure the Public Utilities Commission handles periods of negative electricity prices in the regional New England energy market the same way other New England states do.

The goal of this legislation is for Maine to follow established regional practices and use those negative pricing situations as a way to help reduce the remaining stranded costs that Maine ratepayers have been paying since electricity market restructuring.

Put simply, this bill better aligns Maine with the rest of New England and uses market conditions to lower long-term costs for consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.