

LD 826 Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System To Study the Potential Effects of the State Adopting Atlantic Standard Time

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

From: Lynne Caswell, Esq., Legislative Analyst

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*electronic
file*<http://legislature.maine.gov/ctl/SLG/04-07-2021?panel=0&time=0&sortdir=0&sortby=2>**SUMMARY**

This resolve directs the University of Maine System to study and analyze the potential effects on the State's economy of the State adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time and determine if that adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the United States Department of Transportation. University of Maine System is required to fund the study through private donations and to submit a report with suggested legislation by December 31, 2021 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

TESTIMONY¹**Sponsor** Senator Bennett

- Federal law requires state conduct study prior to opting out of daylight savings time;
- The study This study will meet that obligation

Cosponsor: Rep Kessler**Proponents** written only: Christine Keller; Kimberly Radley - in favor of Atlantic Time Zone w/o daylight savings**Opponents** (Maine Association of Broadcasters by Suzanne Goucher; Motion Picture Association by Charlie Soltan)

- Live programs will not be adjusted
- ME needs to stay in sync with NYC
- MA conducted study² – benefits and costs to state
- Supports 129th bill
- Federal solution

NFNA: USM by Samantha Warren

- Responsibility to serve as resource to people of Maine;
- objective, nonpartisan
- USM capable of completing study, if funded
- \$15,000 (not to inform public policy; \$75,000)

¹ The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.

² file:///C:/Users/lcaswell/Downloads/TIME%20ZONE%20REPORT_FINAL.pdf

PRIOR SESSION

The SLG committee considered 2 bills in the 129th Session on daylight savings time.

1. 144, An Act To Opt Out of Federal Daylight-Saving Time and To Ask the United States Secretary of Transportation To Place the State in the Atlantic Time Zone; and
2. 885, An Act To Adopt Eastern Daylight Time Year-round

The committee's amendment (unanimous) became P.L. 2019, ch. 26.³ The law changes Maine's standard time to eastern daylight time year-round if the following conditions are met:

1. Federal law permits the District of Columbia and all states within the eastern time zone to observe eastern daylight time year-round; and
2. The District of Columbia and all the eastern time zone states elect to change to year-round eastern daylight time

INFORMATION / POTENTIAL ISSUES / TECHNICAL PROBLEMS**OPTING OUT OF DST**

Federal law allows a state to move into the Atlantic Time Zone and then opt out of DST by filing a petition for a change in time zone. The Secretary of Transportation evaluates the petition based on the change's impact on commerce. The required elements for the study in this bill mirror those required by the US DOT.⁴

IMPACT OF DST

Daylight Savings Time (DST), updated September 3, 2020, U.S. Congressional Research Service (<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45208.pdf>).

FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)

None provided as of this date.

³ [file:///C:/Users/lcaswell/Downloads/chapter%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/lcaswell/Downloads/chapter%20(1).pdf)

⁴ <https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/procedure-moving-area-one-time-zone-another>