

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: February 13, 2020

To: Joint Standing Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology

From: Lucia Nixon, Legislative Analyst

Re: LD 1646, An Act To Restore Local Ownership and Control of Maine's Power Delivery Systems (Rep. Berry)

BILL SUMMARY

This bill creates the Maine Power Delivery Authority as a consumer-owned utility to acquire and operate all transmission and distribution systems in the State currently operated by the two investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities: Central Maine Power Company and Emera Maine. The sections of the bill are as follows:

- Sec. 1: Establishes the Maine Power Delivery Authority Board
- Sec. 2-3: Amends the definition of “consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility” to include the Maine Power Delivery Authority
- Sec. 4: Enacts Title 35-A Chapter 40 – Maine Power Delivery Authority
- Sec. 5: Requires the PUC to examine all laws that may be affected by this Act, determine necessary/appropriate modifications to laws and submit proposed legislation to the EUT committee.

ACTIVITY IN COMMITTEE - 1ST REGULAR SESSION 129TH

April 25, 2019	Referred to Committee	
May 14, 2019	Public Hearing	
May 22, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
May 30, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 3, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 5, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 11, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 12, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 13, 2019	Work Session Held	TABLED
Jun 14, 2019	Work Session Held	Carryover Requested
Jun 17, 2019	Carry Over Approved	

CARRYOVER REQUEST JUSTIFICATION:

- The committee directed the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an evaluation of the complex proposal contained in LD 1646 over the interim. (*see Additional Information below*)
- The committee will be in a better position to act on LD 1646 after getting a report back from the Public Utilities Commission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Committee reported out a Committee Bill, LD 1844 “Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Evaluate the Ownership of Maine's Power Delivery Systems” which was passed into law as Resolve 2019, chapter 107 (see attached)
- Resolve 2017, ch. 107, does the following:
 - Directs the PUC to evaluate the proposal for creation of the Maine Power Delivery Authority as presented in L.D. 1646, An Act To Restore Local Ownership and Control of Maine's Power Delivery Systems.
 - Requires the PUC to contract with an independent consultant or consultants with relevant expertise to assist with the evaluation.
 - Requires the PUC to submit a report on the evaluation no later than February 15, 2020 that includes results, findings and recommendations and specifies which aspects of the evaluation have been completed and which require further study.
 - Authorizes the commission to use funds from the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund to carry out the required evaluation. (\$500,000)
- Report back from LD 1844 evaluation of LD 1646 proposal:
 - Due this Saturday, February 15, 2020.
 - Committee is scheduling a report presentation for February 26, 2020.