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Legislative Document

No. 1336

H.P. 964

House of Representatives, March 21, 2019

**Resolve, Directing the Governor To Renominate Penobscot Bay for
Inclusion in the United States Environmental Protection Agency
National Estuary Program**

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox and
Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, DOUDERA of Camden, EVANGELOS of
Friendship, HUTCHINS of Penobscot, MATLACK of St. George, PLUECKER of Warren.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** Penobscot Bay and its coastal forests, shores and islands
2 attract immense numbers of visitors by land and by sea every year, supporting a thriving
3 and robustly diverse tourism industry; and

4 **Whereas,** Penobscot Bay supports a profitable, well-managed lobster fishery that
5 sustains coastal communities around the bay; and

6 **Whereas,** it is possible that Penobscot Bay will host substantial land-based salmon
7 aquaculture operations; and

8 **Whereas,** Penobscot Bay and the Penobscot River support dozens of plant, fish,
9 shellfish, seabird and marine mammal species, including 11 diadromous fishes: shad,
10 salmon, alewife, blueback herring, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, sea lamprey,
11 American eel, striped bass, rainbow smelt and tomcod; and

12 **Whereas,** Penobscot Bay faces increasing commercial, residential and industrial
13 development pressures to replace natural forestland and farmland with buildings, parking
14 lots, roads and other artificial surfaces, which will increase licensed discharges and
15 stormwater runoff; and

16 **Whereas,** more than 30 licensed outfalls pump industrial and sewage treatment
17 plant wastewater into Penobscot Bay and more are on the way; and

18 **Whereas,** wastes left on, in or near the shore by 19th and 20th century fertilizer and
19 chemical factories, mining, coal gas production and poultry processers, as well as waste
20 oils and other fluids from automobiles and from oil spills, large and small, pollute
21 Penobscot Bay; and

22 **Whereas,** it is impossible to protect and restore the environments that support
23 Penobscot Bay's fisheries and scenic and forest tourism unless we treat the entire bay as a
24 single entity when it comes to decisions on developments that could have effects on the
25 bay as a whole; and

26 **Whereas,** the United States Environmental Protection Agency has developed a
27 National Estuary Program to focus research attention on special places like Penobscot
28 Bay and provides funding to pay for local estuary programs; and

29 **Whereas,** in 1995, Governor Angus King unsuccessfully nominated Penobscot Bay
30 for inclusion in the National Estuary Program; and

31 **Whereas,** the problems and opportunities that drove Governor King to nominate
32 Penobscot Bay for the National Estuary Program have only increased; now, therefore be
33 it

34 **Sec. 1. Governor to renominate Penobscot Bay for National Estuary**
35 **Program. Resolved:** That the Governor shall renominate Penobscot Bay for inclusion
36 in the United States Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program by:

