



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1614

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H.P. 1166

House of Representatives, April 23, 2019

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic,  
Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine  
Electricity Industry**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RILEY of Jay.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and  
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CAIAZZO of Scarborough, DOUDERA of  
Camden, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

1           **Sec. 1. Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy**  
2 **Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry established.**  
3 **Resolved:** That the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy  
4 Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry, referred to in this resolve as  
5 "the commission," is established.

6           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
7 commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

8           1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a  
9 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10           2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
11 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats  
12 in the Legislature;

13           3. Four public members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

14           A. A representative of the energy storage industry;

15           B. A representative of the hydroelectric energy storage industry;

16           C. A representative of an electric utility in the State; and

17           D. An academic in the field of energy storage; and

18           4. Four public members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

19           A. A representative of a conservation organization;

20           B. A representative of a business that uses significant electric power in the State;

21           C. A representative of a large-scale battery storage owner; and

22           D. A representative of a small-scale battery storage owner.

23           **Sec. 3. Commission chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senator is the  
24 Senate chair of the commission and the first-named member of the House is the House  
25 chair of the commission.

26           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
27 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
28 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
29 Council once all appointments have been made. When the appointment of all members  
30 has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting  
31 of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority  
32 of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the  
33 Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its  
34 business.

35           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall hold at least 4 meetings and  
36 shall:

1           1. Review and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of energy  
2 storage to the State's electricity industry, as well as public policy and economic proposals  
3 to create and maintain a sustainable future for energy storage in the State;

4           2. Consider the challenges of the broad electricity market in the State, including  
5 challenges with transmission and stranded renewable energy generation in the northern  
6 part of the State, and analyze whether energy storage is part of the transmission solution;

7           3. Consider whether the environmental, economic, resiliency and energy benefits of  
8 energy storage support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the  
9 role of energy storage throughout the State;

10          4. Consider the economic benefits of energy storage systems procurement targets,  
11 including benefits of cost savings to ratepayers from the provision of services, including  
12 energy price arbitrage, capacity, ancillary services and transmission and distribution asset  
13 deferral or substitution; direct cost savings to ratepayers that deploy energy storage  
14 systems; an improved ability to integrate renewable resources; improved reliability and  
15 power quality; the effect on retail electric rates over the life of a given energy storage  
16 system compared to the effect on retail electric rates using a nonenergy storage system  
17 alternative over the life of the nonenergy storage system alternative; reduced greenhouse  
18 gas emissions; and any other value reasonably related to the application of energy storage  
19 system technology and compare those economic benefits to the effects of leaving current  
20 policies in place; and

21          5. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the study.

22           In conducting the duties under this section, the commission shall seek public input  
23 and shall consult and collaborate with stakeholders and experts in the fields of economic  
24 development, natural resources and energy policy.

25           **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
26 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except  
27 that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular  
28 or special session. The commission may invite the Department of Economic and  
29 Community Development, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public  
30 Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office and the Efficiency Maine Trust and other  
31 appropriate agencies of State Government to provide additional staff support or assistance  
32 to the commission.

33           **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 4, 2019, the commission  
34 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
35 legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature. The suggested  
36 legislation must include, but is not limited to, adopting procurement targets for the State  
37 for energy storage systems, both behind a customer meter and connected to transmission  
38 and distribution facilities, if proven beneficial for ratepayers in the cost-benefit analysis  
39 under section 5.

**SUMMARY**

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This resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry.