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**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 710, L.D. 955, Bill, “An Act To Prohibit Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Drilling and Exploration”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 2. 38 MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 2-C** is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 2-C**

**PROHIBITION ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION**

**§570-AA. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. Development.** "Development" means the activities conducted subsequent to the exploration for and discovery of oil or natural gas resources, but prior to the production of those resources, to facilitate the production of those resources, including, but not limited to, geophysical activities, drilling, platform construction, pipeline construction and the operation of all onshore support facilities specifically constructed or designed to support those activities.

**2. Exploration.** "Exploration" means the activities conducted to locate oil or natural gas resources, prior to the development or production of those resources, including, but not limited to, the drilling of wells for the purpose of locating and determining the size and scope of those resources.

**3. Federal waters.** "Federal waters" means those waters and submerged lands lying seaward to the waters of the State that are subject to federal jurisdiction and control.

**4. Oil terminal facility.** "Oil terminal facility" has the same meaning as in section 542, subsection 7.

1           **5. North Atlantic planning area.** "North Atlantic planning area" means an area of  
2 federal waters in the outer Continental Shelf adjacent to the coastal waters of the states of  
3 Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New  
4 Jersey.

5           **6. Production.** "Production" means the activities conducted subsequent to the  
6 exploration, discovery and development of oil or natural gas resources including, but not  
7 limited to, the removal or extraction of those resources, related field operations, the  
8 transportation of those resources over the waters of the State to onshore facilities,  
9 workover drilling and the operation, monitoring and maintenance of the removal or  
10 extraction process. "Production" does not include the transfer of oil or natural gas  
11 resources to or from the waters of the State, including both onloading and offloading of  
12 oil or natural gas resources between an oil terminal facility and a vessel or between  
13 vessels, except that "production" does include the transfer of oil or natural gas resources  
14 to or from the waters of the State when such transfer involves oil or natural gas resources  
15 removed or extracted from federal waters in the north Atlantic planning area.

16           **7. Vessel.** "Vessel" has the same meaning as in section 542, subsection 11.

17 **§570-BB. Prohibition**

18           Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a person may not perform  
19 or cause to be performed, and the department may not permit, approve or otherwise  
20 authorize, any oil or natural gas exploration, development or production in, on or under  
21 the waters of the State.'

22           Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
23 section number to read consecutively.

24 **SUMMARY**

25           This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, amends the bill to  
26 clarify the prohibition on oil or natural gas exploration, development or production  
27 activities as follows.

28           1. It amends certain definitions to more clearly delineate the activities regulated and  
29 to specify that the transfer of oil or natural gas resources to or from the waters of the  
30 State, including both onloading and offloading of oil or natural gas resources between an  
31 oil terminal facility and a vessel or between vessels, is not prohibited under the bill.

32           2. It removes language specifically prohibiting exploration, development or  
33 production activities that may adversely affect the waters of the State.