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Date: (Filing No. H-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1336, L.D. 2077, “An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Study the Role of Natural Gas in an Equitable Clean Energy Transition for Maine'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'PART A

Sec. A-1. Public Utilities Commission inquiry. Resolved: That, by October 1, 2024, the Public Utilities Commission shall conduct an inquiry that includes, but is not limited to, an evaluation of investment planning undertaken by gas utilities and consideration of a framework for commission oversight of future investments made by gas utilities. In conducting its inquiry, the commission shall consider:

- 1. The requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 103-A;
- 2. The policy of beneficial electrification under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 38; and
- 3. The goals established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 1-A, the state energy plan under Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C and the climate action plan adopted pursuant to Title 38, section 577.

Sec. A-2. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2025, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters that includes an overview of the inquiry required pursuant to section 1 of this Part, a summary of any actions the commission plans to take as well as any recommendations for legislation. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

PART B

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1 D. An individual representing the interests of the fishing industry in the State;
- 2 4. Four public members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:
- 3 A. An individual representing the frontline community;
- 4 B. An individual representing the interests of the renewable energy industry;
- 5 C. An individual representing the interests of the energy industry who is not in the
- 6 renewable energy industry; and
- 7 D. An individual representing a registered apprenticeship program under the Maine
- 8 Revised Statutes, Title 26, chapter 37 or a joint committee as described in Title 26,
- 9 section 3201, subsection 4, paragraph A; and
- 10 5. Three ex officio members as follows:
- 11 A. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
- 12 B. The Director of the Governor's Energy Office or the director's designee; and
- 13 C. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the
- 14 commissioner's designee.

15 For the purposes of this section, "frontline community" means a community that is the
16 most vulnerable to and will be the most adversely affected by climate change and
17 inequitable actions because of systemic and historical socioeconomic disparities,
18 environmental injustice or other forms of injustice.

19 **Sec. C-3. Chairs; quorum. Resolved:** That the Senate member is the Senate chair
20 and the House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission. A quorum
21 is 7 members, and a quorum must be present to start a meeting but is not required to
22 continue a meeting.

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

31 **Sec. C-5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall:

- 32 1. Review and evaluate the State's current energy workforce, including compensation
33 levels and benefits that are provided for workers in the energy industry;
- 34 2. Consider the current workforce demands of the State's energy industry and how best
35 to meet the needs of energy consumers, including the number and types of jobs needed to
36 achieve the State's energy policy and goals;
- 37 3. Consider the current compensation levels, including benefits associated with the
38 types of jobs needed to meet the State's energy policy and goals;
- 39 4. Review any current efforts to ensure individuals employed in the State's energy
40 industry experience a just and equitable transition to existing and potential future jobs in
41 the energy industry, including efforts to mitigate potential losses in compensation and

1 benefits, establish a crosswalk of transferable skills and certifications and address new or
2 supplemental training needs;

3 5. Consider the economic benefits of a well-compensated workforce in the State as it
4 pertains to careers that help the State meet its energy policies and goals; and

5 6. Examine how a coordinated and holistic statewide effort to ensure a just and
6 equitable transition for individuals employed in the State's energy industry could benefit
7 from the establishment of a state agency, such as an Office of Just and Equitable Transition,
8 dedicated to that purpose and how such an agency could also help meet the needs of
9 employers in the energy industry.

10 **Sec. C-6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
11 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that
12 Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or
13 special session.

14 **Sec. C-7. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than
15 December 4, 2024, the commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committees
16 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters and labor matters that includes
17 the commission's findings and recommendations. The report may include a review of
18 current and future needs of the State's energy industry and its workforce, including needs
19 related to compensation, transferable skills and training. The report may also include
20 recommendations for the structure and functions of a state agency dedicated to ensuring a
21 just and equitable transition for the State's workforce and meeting the needs of the
22 businesses in the energy industry that employ them. The joint standing committees may
23 each report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 related to the report.'

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

26 SUMMARY

27 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment does the following.

28 1. Part A directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an inquiry that includes
29 an evaluation of investment planning undertaken by gas utilities and consideration of a
30 framework for commission oversight of future investments made by gas utilities. By
31 December 1, 2025, the commission must submit a report to the joint standing committee of
32 the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters that includes an overview of the
33 inquiry, a summary of any actions the commission plans to take as well as any
34 recommendations for legislation. The committee may report out a bill related to the report
35 to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

36 2. Part B requires the Governor's Energy Office in consultation with the Public Utilities
37 Commission, to review and evaluate various issues related to the natural gas industry in the
38 State. By December 1, 2025, the Governor's Energy Office must submit a report to the joint
39 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters that includes
40 an overview of the evaluation and any recommendations for legislation. The committee
41 may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd
42 Legislature.

1 3. Part C establishes the Commission to Study the Establishment of a Just and Equitable
2 Transition for Maine's Workforce Impacted by State Energy Policies and Goals. The
3 commission's duties include reviewing and evaluating the State's current energy workforce
4 including compensation levels and benefits that are provided for workers in the energy
5 industry; considering the current workforce demands of the State's energy industry and how
6 best to meet the needs of energy consumers, including the number and types of jobs needed
7 to achieve the State's energy policy and goals; considering the current compensation levels
8 including benefits associated with the types of jobs needed to meet the State's energy policy
9 and goals; reviewing any current efforts to ensure individuals employed in the State's
10 energy industry experience a just and equitable transition to existing and potential future
11 jobs in the energy industry; considering the economic benefits of a well-compensated
12 workforce in the State as it pertains to careers that help the State meet its energy policies
13 and goals; and examining how a coordinated and holistic statewide effort to ensure a just
14 and equitable transition for individuals employed in the State's energy industry could
15 benefit from the establishment of a state agency dedicated to that purpose and how such an
16 agency could also help meet the needs of employers in the energy industry. No later than
17 December 4, 2024, the commission must submit a report to the joint standing committees
18 on energy matters and labor matters that includes its findings and recommendations. The
19 joint standing committees may each report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025
20 related to the report.

21 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
22 **(See attached)**