

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1028

H.P. 723

House of Representatives, March 14, 2013

Resolve, Authorizing a Visual Impact Assessment of Roxbury Pond and Webb Lake

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

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative BRIGGS of Mexico. (BY REQUEST) Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and Representatives: CROCKETT of Bethel, DUNPHY of Embden, HARVELL of Farmington. 1**Preamble. Whereas,** Roxbury Pond in the Town of Roxbury, Oxford County and2Webb Lake in the Town of Weld, Franklin County were overlooked in the study,3"Maine's Finest Lakes," prepared by the Executive Department, State Planning Office in41989; and

5 **Whereas,** the study at that time was not completed due to a time and funding 6 limitation; and

Whereas, the "Maine Wind Energy Development Assessment" prepared by the
Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security in 2012 recognizes that
cumulative visual impacts need to be considered in areas designated by the Maine Wind
Energy Act as expedited permitting area; and

- Whereas, "Maine's Finest Lakes" is currently being used to determine the status of
 water bodies as scenic resources of state significance; and
- Whereas, there are many proposed projects and many projects in some stage of
 development within an 8-mile to 15-mile radius of Roxbury Pond and Webb Lake; and
- Whereas, it is essential that the Department of Environmental Protection assess
 these 2 areas before any future applications for wind power in these areas are processed;
 and

18 Whereas, the Appalachian Trail, Tumbledown Mountain, Whitecap Mountain, 19 Mahoosuc Land Trust, Mount Blue State Park, Mount Blue, Jackson Mountain, Little 20 Jackson Mountain, Old Speck Mountain and many other notable mountains, trails and 21 conservation areas as listed in the "Western Mountains Region Management Plan," 22 adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Parks 23 and Public Lands, could also be negatively affected; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Visual impact assessment. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall authorize a visual impact assessment to be done by an independent 3rd party to review the scenic and visual attributes of Roxbury Pond in the Town of Roxbury, Oxford County and Webb Lake in the Town of Weld, Franklin County in the same manner as was done for the lakes that were assessed in the study, "Maine's Finest Lakes," prepared by the Executive Department, State Planning Office in 1989.

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SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to authorize a visual impact assessment be done by an independent 3rd party to review the scenic and visual attributes of Roxbury Pond in the Town of Roxbury, Oxford County and Webb Lake in the Town of Weld, Franklin County.