

LD 2077, An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas

Amend the bill by striking and replacing the Title with the following:

ADD Title – Resolve,

Strike everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and replace with the following:

Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission ~~proceeding~~inquiry. Resolved: That, by October 1, 2024, the Public Utilities Commission shall initiate an inquiry ~~proceeding~~ to evaluate in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 103-A, as well as the goals established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 1-A, the beneficial electrification policy under Title 35-A, chapter 38, the state energy plan under Title 2, section 9, subsection 3-C, the greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements of Title 38, section 576-A, and the Maine Climate Action Plan produced pursuant to Title 38, section 577 including but not limited to the following:

1. A framework for commission oversight of future investments made by gas utilities;
- and
2. Investment planning undertaken by gas utilities; ~~and~~
- ~~3. Measures to ensure gas utility ratepayers are protected from potential future stranded asset costs, including but not limited to non-pipeline alternative analysis.~~

Sec. 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 proceeding required pursuant to section 1, a summary of any actions the commission plans to take along with any recommendations for legislation. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 1. Governor’s Energy Office evaluation. Resolved: That the Governor’s Energy Office shall, in consultation with the Commission, review and evaluate:

1. The current use of natural gas in meeting the existing energy needs of the residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and power generation sectors in the state, and in employing residents of the state;

2. ~~The role of natural gas in~~ Ensure-ensuring the energy security for ~~of~~ manufacturers and large commercial customers;
3. Policy and regulatory activities concerning gas utilities in other states and concerning the role of existing ~~pathways to maximize gas infrastructure in supporting the~~ to support transition to a low carbon future;
4. New and emerging technologies for the production, transportation, delivery and storage of natural gas; and
5. New and emerging technologies that may enable alternative cost-effective uses of existing gas infrastructure consistent with the requirements of Title 38 section 576-A and the Maine Climate Action Plan produced pursuant to Title 38, section 577, including but not limited to, renewable natural gas, clean hydrogen and district geothermal technologies.

The Governor's Energy Office shall encourage interested stakeholders to submit relevant information to inform the evaluation.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2025, the Governor's Energy Office shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters that includes an overview of the evaluation required pursuant to section 3 and any recommendations for legislation. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Section 3. Establish Commission To Study the Determine a Framework to Ensure a Just and Equitable Transition for Maine's Workforce Impacted by State Energy Policies and Goals Resolved: That the Commission To Study the Establishment of a Just and Equitable Transition for Maine's Workforce Impacted by State Energy Policies and Goals, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 4. Membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. A member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. 4 public members, two of whom must be from or represent interests in the northern part of the State, appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
 - A. An individual representing the environmental justice community;
 - B. An individual representing a labor organization whose workers are employed in the energy industry;
 - C. A representative of a business that is large-scale user of energy in Maine;
 - D. An individual representing the interests of Maine's fishing industry
4. Four public members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:
 - A. An individual representing the frontline community;
 - B. An individual representing the interests of the renewable energy industry;
 - C. An individual representing the interests of the energy industry not in the renewable energy industry ~~non-renewable energy industry~~; and
 - D. An individual representing a Registered Apprenticeship Program or Joint

5. Three ex-officio members as follows:

- A. The Commissioner of the Maine Department of Labor, or their designee; and
- B. The Director of the Governor's Energy Office, or their designee.
- C. The Commissioner of the Maine Department of Community & Economic Development, or their designee

Sec. 5. Commission chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senator is the Senate chair of the commission and the first-named member of the House is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 6. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. When the appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 7. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall hold at least 4 meetings and shall:

1. Review and evaluate Maine's current energy workforce including their compensation levels including benefits;
2. Consider the current workforce demands of Maine's energy industry, how best to meet the needs of consumers and the number and types of jobs needed to operationalize the state's energy policy and goals;
3. Consider the current compensation levels including benefits associated with the types of jobs needed to meet the state's energy policy and goals;
4. Review any current dedicated, specific and, if applicable, coordinated efforts to ensure working Mainers in the energy industry experience a just and equitable transition to current and potential future jobs in the energy industry, including mitigating potential losses in compensation and benefits, a crosswalk of transferable skills and certifications and new or supplemental training needs;
5. Consider the economic benefits of a well-compensated Maine workforce as it pertains to careers that help the state meet its energy policies and goals;
6. Examine how a coordinated and holistic statewide effort to ensure a just and equitable transition can benefit from the establishment of a Maine Office of Just and Equitable Transition.

Sec. 8. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 9. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 4, 2024, the commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing that includes its findings and recommendations. The report may consider a review of current realities, future needs of Maine's

energy industry, its workforce and their compensation, transferable skills and training needs as well as how a Maine Office of Just and Equitable Transition can be structured to meet the needs of Maine's workforce and the businesses in the energy industry that employ them.