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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 106, L.D. 131, Bill, “An Act To Secure the Safety of Electrical Power Transmission Lines”

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

**'Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Examine Measures To Mitigate the Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances and Electromagnetic Pulse on the State's Transmission System'**

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

**Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has identified 2013 as a peak year of solar activity that could result in a geomagnetic disturbance; and

**Whereas,** the impact of a significant geomagnetic disturbance or electromagnetic pulse on the reliability of Maine's electric grid is unknown; and

**Whereas,** the Public Utilities Commission may be able to identify measures to protect Maine's electric grid through a focused examination; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Examination of vulnerabilities and mitigation. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall examine the vulnerabilities of the State's transmission infrastructure to the potential negative impacts of a geomagnetic disturbance or electromagnetic pulse capable of disabling, disrupting or destroying a transmission and distribution system and identify potential mitigation measures. In its examination, the commission shall:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

- 1 1. Identify the most vulnerable components of the State's transmission system;
- 2 2. Identify potential mitigation measures to decrease the negative impacts of a  
3 geomagnetic disturbance or electromagnetic pulse;
- 4 3. Estimate the costs of potential mitigation measures and develop options for low-  
5 cost, mid-cost and high-cost measures;
- 6 4. Examine the positive and negative effects of adopting a policy to incorporate  
7 mitigation measures into the future construction of transmission lines and the positive and  
8 negative effects of retrofitting existing transmission lines;
- 9 5. Examine any potential effects of the State adopting a policy under subsection 4 on  
10 the regional transmission system;
- 11 6. Develop a time frame for the adoption of mitigation measures; and
- 12 7. Develop recommendations regarding the allocation of costs to mitigate the effects  
13 of geomagnetic disturbances or electromagnetic pulse on the State's transmission system  
14 and identify which costs, if any, should be the responsibility of shareholders or  
15 ratepayers; and be it further

16 **Sec. 2. Monitor federal efforts regarding mitigation measures. Resolved:**  
17 That the Public Utilities Commission shall actively monitor the efforts by the Federal  
18 Energy Regulatory Commission, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation,  
19 ISO New England and other regional and federal organizations to develop reliability  
20 standards related to geomagnetic disturbances and electromagnetic pulse; and be it further

21 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall report the  
22 results of its examination required pursuant to section 1 and the progress of regional and  
23 national efforts to develop reliability standards under section 2 to the Joint Standing  
24 Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January 20, 2014. The Joint Standing  
25 Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology may submit a bill to the Second Regular  
26 Session of the 126th Legislature based on the report.

27 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
28 legislation takes effect when approved.'

## 29 SUMMARY

30 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Public Utilities  
31 Commission to conduct an examination of the vulnerabilities of the State's transmission  
32 infrastructure to the potential negative impacts of a geomagnetic disturbance or  
33 electromagnetic pulse capable of disabling, disrupting or destroying a transmission and  
34 distribution system and identify potential mitigation measures. The commission is also  
35 required to monitor efforts by regional and federal organizations to address this issue and  
36 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by January  
37 20, 2014. The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 106, L.D. 131

1 Legislature based on the report. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause  
2 to the bill.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**