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Legislative Document

No. 336

S.P. 142

In Senate, February 8, 2021

An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210-H** is enacted to read:

3 **§3210-H. Offshore wind energy research**

4 An entity seeking to undertake research on the development of floating offshore wind
5 energy projects pursuant to 30 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 585 on the outer
6 continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine may petition the commission to enter into or to order
7 an entity to enter into any long-term contracts to facilitate that research. Consistent with
8 the legislative findings and goals of the Maine Wind Energy Act and with the regulations
9 regarding renewable energy and alternate uses of existing facilities on the outer continental
10 shelf adopted by the federal Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy
11 Management in 30 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 585, the commission shall negotiate
12 and, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into or, consistent with authority granted
13 under this Title, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate
14 that research.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate and, to the maximum
17 extent practicable, enter into or, consistent with authority granted under the Maine Revised
18 Statutes, Title 35-A, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to
19 facilitate research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects on the
20 outer continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine.