

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—  
H.P. 1251 - L.D. 1682

**An Act To Require Consideration of Climate Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission and To Incorporate Equity Considerations in Decision Making by State Agencies**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §101**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. F, §1, is further amended to read:

**§101. Statement of purpose**

The purpose of this Title is to ensure that there is a regulatory system for public utilities in the State and for other entities subject to this Title that is consistent with the public interest and with other requirements of law and to provide for reasonable licensing requirements for competitive electricity providers. The basic purpose of this regulatory system as it applies to public utilities subject to service regulation under this Title is to ensure safe, reasonable and adequate service, to assist in minimizing the cost of energy available to the State's consumers ~~and~~, to ensure that the rates of public utilities subject to rate regulation are just and reasonable to customers and public utilities and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set forth in Title 38, section 576-A.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §103-A** is enacted to read:

**§103-A. Climate requirements**

In executing its duties, powers and regulatory functions under this Title, the commission, while ensuring system reliability and resource adequacy, shall facilitate the achievement by the State of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set forth in Title 38, section 576-A.

**Sec. 3. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to incorporate equity considerations and develop related definitions; report.** The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, referred to in this section as "the office," in consultation with other state offices and agencies shall:

1. Develop methods of incorporating equity considerations in decision making at the Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies; and

2. Develop definitions for “environmental justice,” “environmental justice populations,” “frontline communities” and any other terms determined by the office to be necessary for the incorporation of equity considerations in decision making at the department, the commission and other state agencies.

In developing methods of incorporating equity considerations and the definitions pursuant to this section, the office shall allow for input from the public and stakeholders.

On or before February 15, 2022, the office shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes any recommendations regarding methods of incorporating equity considerations developed under subsection 1 and the definitions developed under subsection 2, including any suggested legislation. The committees may each report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.