



Holding Maine's Electric Utilities Accountable

Support: LD 1959, Report A An Act to Ensure Transmission and Distribution Utility Accountability

Sponsored by: Sen. Stacy Brenner of
Cumberland

For more information, please contact
Jack Shapiro, (207) 430-0112
or jshapiro@nrcm.org



Natural Resources
Council of Maine
3 Wade Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-3101
nrcm.org

*Mainers need utilities that work for them, not against them. **LD 1959 Report A** represents a big step in the right direction toward providing better service from Maine's electric utilities and putting us on track to hit Maine's ambitious climate goals.*

LD 1959 Report A, brought forward by Senators Stacy Brenner (D-Cumberland) and Eloise Vitelli (D-Sagadahoc), achieves two important goals:

- Establishes new performance metrics and a report card system for Maine's utilities to ensure they are fulfilling their duties to provide good service at reasonable cost.
- Creates a new integrated grid planning process that will require utilities to be active participants in the transition to clean, affordable energy.

NRCM worked closely with legislators, other environmental groups, and energy experts to improve this bill in the drafting process.

Strengthening Utility Accountability

- LD 1959, Report A requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to set out unambiguous service standards, thresholds of performance, and mandatory penalties if utilities are failing.
- The bill doubles the penalties the PUC can impose, and it sets out divestiture as the ultimate penalty for a failing utility.

Building the Grid of the Future

- The power sector is the backbone of our energy transition, and we must work toward a low-cost, low-carbon grid for Maine that allows distributed energy resources to flourish, shares the benefits of the energy transition widely, and enables the transition away from fossil fuels.

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- The need for holistic grid planning has repeatedly been raised—in broad energy stakeholder processes and in the Maine Climate Action Plan, and this bill puts such a planning process in law.
- Proactive planning is critical to building a modern grid in a cost-effective way. Considering alternatives to traditional transmission and distribution infrastructure like distributed energy resources and load flexibility as we transition to a new, dynamic grid powered by clean energy could save ratepayers billions of dollars.

LD 1959 Report A can play an important role in improving quality of service for Maine people and helping the state achieve its climate goals at a lower cost.

Contact your state legislators and ask them to boost our clean energy economy by supporting LD 1959.

Find your state legislators here:

<https://nrcm.salsalabs.org/mainelegislatorlookup/index.html>



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3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330
(800) 287-2345 • www.nrcm.org