

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 710 - L.D. 955

**An Act To Prohibit Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Drilling and Exploration**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1862, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

**14. Prohibition on oil and natural gas exploration, development and production.**  
Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the director may not permit, approve or otherwise authorize any oil or natural gas exploration, development or production in, on or under the submerged and intertidal land owned by the State.

As used in this subsection, "development" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 570-AA, subsection 1; "exploration" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 570-AA, subsection 2; and "production" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 570-AA, subsection 3.

**Sec. 2. 38 MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 2-C** is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 2-C**

**PROHIBITION ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION**

**§570-AA. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. Development.** "Development" means the activities conducted subsequent to the exploration for and discovery of oil or natural gas resources, but prior to the production of those resources, to facilitate the production of those resources, including, but not limited to, geophysical activities, drilling, platform construction, pipeline construction and the operation of all onshore support facilities specifically constructed or designed to support those activities.

**2. Exploration.** "Exploration" means the activities conducted to locate oil or natural gas resources, prior to the development or production of those resources, including, but not limited to, the drilling of wells for the purpose of locating and determining the size and scope of those resources.

**3. Federal waters.** "Federal waters" means those waters and submerged lands lying seaward to the waters of the State that are subject to federal jurisdiction and control.

**4. Oil terminal facility.** "Oil terminal facility" has the same meaning as in section 542, subsection 7.

**5. North Atlantic planning area.** "North Atlantic planning area" means an area of federal waters in the outer Continental Shelf adjacent to the coastal waters of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

**6. Production.** "Production" means the activities conducted subsequent to the exploration, discovery and development of oil or natural gas resources including, but not limited to, the removal or extraction of those resources, related field operations, the transportation of those resources over the waters of the State to onshore facilities, workover drilling and the operation, monitoring and maintenance of the removal or extraction process. "Production" does not include the transfer of oil or natural gas resources to or from the waters of the State, including both onloading and offloading of oil or natural gas resources between an oil terminal facility and a vessel or between vessels, except that "production" does include the transfer of oil or natural gas resources to or from the waters of the State when such transfer involves oil or natural gas resources removed or extracted from federal waters in the north Atlantic planning area.

**7. Vessel.** "Vessel" has the same meaning as in section 542, subsection 11.

#### **§570-BB. Prohibition**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a person may not perform or cause to be performed, and the department may not permit, approve or otherwise authorize, any oil or natural gas exploration, development or production in, on or under the waters of the State.