

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 193

H. P. 171

House of Representatives, January 12, 1981

Submitted by the Office of Energy Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Nadeau of Lewiston.

Cosponsor: Mr. Racine of Biddeford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Revise the Voluntary Training and Certification Program for Installers of Solar Energy Equipment in Maine.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 5005, sub-§ 1, ¶ 0, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 277, § 1, is amended to read:

O. In cooperation with the Plumbers' Examining Board and the Department of Business Regulation, establish a voluntary training and certification program for installers of solar energy equipment.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 8003, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 277, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Upon notice from the Office of Energy Resources, the Department of Business Regulation shall issue solar energy installer's certificates to those individuals who meet the requirements listed in this section. The Department of Business Regulation shall keep all relevant records.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA § 8003-A is enacted to read:

§ 8003-A. Fees

The Commissioner of Business Regulation may establish reasonable fees for the issuance of solar energy installers' certificates. All fees shall be paid to the Treasurer of State to be used by the Department of Business Regulation for the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA § 8004, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 277, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

The Department of Business Regulation, in coordination with the Office of Energy Resources, shall investigate or cause to be investigated all complaints against certified solar energy installers and all cases of violations of this chapter. The office of Energy Resources may refuse to renew the certification or the Administrative Court may suspend or revoke the certification of a solar energy installer who is found guilty of:

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA § 8006 is enacted to read:

§ 8006. Renewals

All certificates shall expire on December 31st of the 2nd year following issuance or such other times as the Commissioner of Business Regulation may designate. The certificates may be renewed on a biennial basis without further examination upon the payment of the proper fee. The Department of Business Regulation shall notify everyone registered under this chapter of the date of expiration of his license and the amount of fee required for its renewal for a 2-year period. The notice shall be mailed to the person's last known address at least 30 days in advance of the expiration date of his license. Any person who fails to renew his license within a period of 90 days following the expiration date is required to take an examination.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill revises the existing solar installers' training and certification program. While this program has been successfully implemented by the Office of Energy Resources, it is more appropriate that it be administered by the Department of Business Regulation as this department normally handles professional certification and licensing programs.

While this bill gives the Department of Business Regulation the administering responsibilities with regard to solar installers' certification, the goals and contents of the program will remain intact. The office of the Energy Resources will continue to provide technical assistance, offer training programs, design examinations and perform other tasks related to the technical aspects of the program.