MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE	
Legislative Document	No. 1916
Submitted by the Natural Resources and Authorized by Legislati	House of Representatives, February 3, 1982 Joint Standing Committees on Energy and Public Utilities pursuant to Joint Rule 18 ve Council August 13, 1981 presentative Hall from the Committees or
Energy and Natural Runder Joint Rules No. 1	esources and Public Utilities and printed
under Joint Rules No. 1	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
	STATE OF MAINE
	THE YEAR OF OUR LORD EEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO
	to Ensure Continuance of the ential Conservation Service.
Be it enacted by the	People of the State of Maine as follows
Sec. 1. 5 MRSA	A §5004, sub-§3, ¶N is enacted to read:
as established b servation Policy 1978, as amend	ent the Residential Conservation Services the United States Natural Energy C Act, Public Law 95-619, November ded by the United States Energy Security 26, 204 June 20, 1080 United States
Code, Title 4: amended so as 1 ments for provi	96-294, June 30, 1980, United Sta 2, Section 8211 et seq., is repealed to have the effect of removing requi ding energy conservation information
	and arranging financing for energy c vements for residential customers,

director shall be authorized to promulgate rules pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to continue these services. In establishing these rules, the director shall simplify federal rules, insofar as possible, without preventing fulfillment of the program objectives and, in no case, shall he impose rules containing additional requirements for utilities.

Sec. 2. Legislative findings and purpose. The Legislature finds that there is an urgent need to help Maine homeowners identify and implement energy conservation improvements.

The Legislature further finds that the federally mandated Residential Conservation Service, which requires large utilities serving the State to provide energy information, offer energy audits and arrange financing for energy conservation improvements for residential customers, has had a significant initial effect and has the potential for providing assistance to thousands of Maine citizens.

The Legislature declares it to be in the public interest to provide that, in the event that the Residential Conservation Service should be repealed or dismantled by the Federal Government, the State be empowered to implement a similar program.

Statement of Fact

Currently, the Residential Conservation Service, requires the state's large utilities to provide information on energy conservation and renewable resources, to offer energy audits and to arrange financing for energy conservation improvements based on audit results as a result of federal mandates. The Federal Government is currently discussing plans to repeal or amend the law authorizing this program in a way that may render it ineffective. This bill ensures that, in the event this program is repealed or dismantled under new federal legislation, the State will be empowered to take steps to implement a similar program.