

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

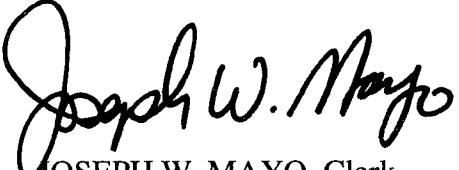
No. 1649

H.P. 1152

House of Representatives, March 3, 1999

**An Act to Strengthen Maine's Research and Development Capacity in
Renewable Energy Resources.**

Reference to the Joint Select Committee on Research and Development suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHIAH of Bowdoinham.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 316, §3, is amended to read:

6 **5. Funding for research and development; community demonstration projects.** The commission by rule shall establish a program allowing retail consumers of electricity to make voluntary contributions to fund renewable resource research and development and to fund demonstration community projects using renewable energy technologies. The State Planning Office shall administer the program. The program must:

14 A. Include a mechanism for customers to indicate their willingness to make contributions;

16 B. Provide that transmission and distribution utilities collect and account for the contributions and forward them to the commission; and

20 C. Provide for a distribution of the funds to the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy or the Maine Technical College System for renewable resource research and development; and

26 D. Provide for a distribution of the funds to Maine-based nonprofit organizations that qualify under the federal Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), consumer-owned electric cooperatives, community-based nonprofit organizations and community action programs for demonstration community projects using renewable energy technologies.

34 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

36 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

38 **6. Additional funding.** The State Planning Office may seek and accept funding from other sources, whether public or private, for the use of the program established under subsection 5. Any money in the fund may not lapse but must be carried forward.

44 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

46 **1999-00**

2000-01

48 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

50

2 **Voluntary Renewable Resource
Fund**

4	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
6	Provides \$500,000 for each		
8	year of the biennium for		
10	costs of administering the		
	program established in the		
	Maine Revised Statutes, Title		
12	35-A, section 3210.		
	Additional funds must be used		
14	to match voluntary		
	contributions to the		
16	program. Any funds not		
	needed may not lapse but must		
18	be carried forward.		

20 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill expands the program administered by the State
24 Planning Office allowing retail electricity consumers to make
 voluntary contributions to fund renewable resource research and
26 development. The program is expanded to include funding for
 demonstration community projects using renewable energy
28 technologies. Under the bill, the State Planning Office is
 authorized to seek and accept funding, whether public or private,
 to augment funding of the program.