

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 36

H.P. 37

House of Representatives, January 4, 2007

**An Act To Transfer the Administration of the Renewable Resource  
Fund from the State Planning Office to the Public Utilities  
Commission**

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Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLISS of South Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 372, §1 and PL  
3 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 and affected by §4, is further amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

22 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter  
23 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A.

24 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 372, §2, is  
25 amended to read:

26 **6. Fund.** There is established the Renewable Resource Fund, referred to in this  
27 subsection as the "fund." The fund is a nonlapsing fund administered by the ~~State~~  
28 ~~Planning Office~~ commission. All funds collected by the commission pursuant to  
29 subsection 5 must be deposited in the fund for distribution by the ~~State Planning Office~~  
30 commission in accordance with subsection 5. The ~~State Planning Office~~ commission  
31 may seek and accept funding for the program established pursuant to subsection 5 from  
32 other sources, public or private. Any funds accepted for use in the program established  
33 pursuant to subsection 5 must be deposited in the fund.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill transfers administrative responsibilities from the Executive Department,  
36 State Planning Office to the Public Utilities Commission of the program established by  
37 the commission allowing retail electricity customers to make voluntary contributions to  
38 fund renewable resource research and development and to fund demonstration  
39 community projects using renewable energy technologies. It also expands the list of

- 1 entities that are eligible to participate in the demonstration community projects to include
- 2 municipalities and school administrative districts.