

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY REPORT

L.D. 134

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Date: 3-14-07

(Filing No. S- 11)

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 42, L.D. 134, Bill, "An Act To Encourage the Use of Solar Energy"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§2, as reallocated by RR 2005, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:

2. Solar energy rebate program. To the extent that funds are available in the fund established in subsection 3, an owner or tenant of residential or commercial property located in the State is entitled to a rebate for a qualified solar energy system that is installed in accordance with this subsection after July 1, 2005 that will be connected to the electrical grid. The commission shall set rebate levels for qualified solar energy systems. In setting rebate levels, the commission may consider market demand for qualified solar energy systems, program implementation experience and other factors relevant to the solar energy rebate program.

A. A To qualify for a rebate, a solar photovoltaic system qualifies for a rebate of \$3 per watt on the first 2,000 watts of installed capacity and \$1 per watt for the next 1,000 watts if must meet the following installation requirements:

(1) For a system installed after July 1, 2005 but before January 1, 2007, the system is must be installed by a master electrician who has completed a training course to prepare for certification by a North American board of certified energy practitioners or by a master electrician working in conjunction with either a person who has been certified by a North American board of certified energy practitioners or a person who has completed a training course to prepare for certification by a North American board of certified energy practitioners; or

(2) For a system installed on or after January 1, 2007, the system is must be installed by a master electrician who has been certified by a North American board of certified energy practitioners or by a master electrician working in

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 42, L.D. 134

1 conjunction with a person who has been certified by a North American board of
2 certified energy practitioners.

3 B. ~~A To qualify for a rebate, a solar thermal system designed to heat water qualifies~~
4 ~~for a rebate of 25% of the cost of the system, including installation, or \$1,250,~~
5 ~~whichever is less, if the system is~~ must be installed by a licensed plumber who has
6 been certified by the commission to install such systems or by a licensed plumber
7 working in conjunction with a person who has been certified by the commission to
8 install such systems.

9 ~~C. A solar thermal system designed to heat air qualifies for a rebate of 25% of the~~
10 ~~cost of the system, including installation, or \$1,250, whichever is less.~~

11 In the case of a newly constructed residence, the rebate must be available to the original
12 owner or occupant.'

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment retains the
15 provision in the bill that gives the Public Utilities Commission discretion to set rebate
16 levels for solar thermal systems and adds a provision to give the commission discretion to
17 set rebate levels for solar photovoltaic systems.

18 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
19 (See attached)



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 134

LR 763(02)

An Act To Encourage the Use of Solar Energy

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" S-11
Committee: Utilities and Energy

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to revise rebate levels for solar thermal systems and solar photovoltaic systems to encourage consumer participation. Current law provides for a rebate of 25% of the cost of a solar thermal system or \$1,250 whichever is less and for rebates of \$3 per watt on the first 2,000 watts of installed capacity and \$1 per watt for the next 1,000 watts for a solar photovoltaic system. Allowing the PUC flexibility to set the rebates is intended to increase use of the solar thermal rebate program and allow wider participation at lower rebate amounts for the photovoltaic rebate program. The bill does not change the assessments on transmission and distribution utilities that fund the program. The PUC has a proposed solar rebate budget of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 contained in the Governor's 2008-09 Biennial Budget.