

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 220**

S.P. 70

January 27, 2009

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**An Act To Increase the Availability of Solar and Wind Power**

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Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham and  
Senators: BOWMAN of York, GOODALL of Sagadahoc, HOBBS of York, MILLS of  
Somerset, President MITCHELL of Kennebec, Representatives: FLAHERTY of Scarborough,  
HINCK of Portland, Speaker PINGREE of North Haven.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 661, Pt.  
3 D, §1, is further amended to read:

4 **3. Funding level; fund.** The commission shall assess transmission and  
5 distribution utilities to collect funds for the solar and wind energy rebate program in  
6 accordance with this subsection. The amount of all assessments by the commission  
7 under this subsection must result in total program expenditures by each transmission  
8 and distribution utility that do not exceed ~~0.005~~ 0.01 cent per kilowatt-hour. To the  
9 extent practicable, the commission shall establish and collect the assessment in a  
10 manner that is consistent with the assessment made under section 3211-A. The  
11 commission shall establish a solar and wind energy rebate program fund to be used  
12 solely for the purposes of this section. All assessments made under this subsection  
13 are deposited in the fund. Any interest on funds in the fund must be credited to the  
14 fund. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the fund to be used for the  
15 purposes of this section. The commission shall determine the allotment of the fund  
16 in each fiscal year between solar photovoltaic system rebates, solar thermal system  
17 rebates and qualified wind energy system rebates, with a minimum of 20% of the  
18 fund provided to each of the 3 types of rebates.

19 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 661, Pt.  
20 D, §1, is further amended to read:

21 **6. Limitation to residents of State.** Participation in the solar and wind energy  
22 rebate program and fund established in this section is limited to residents of the State.  
~~This section is repealed December 31, 2010.~~

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#### SUMMARY

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25 This bill raises the upper limit of the assessments on transmission and distribution  
26 utilities for the solar and wind energy rebate program from 0.005 cent per kilowatt-  
27 hour to 0.01 cent per kilowatt-hour. The bill also repeals the provision abolishing the  
28 program on December 31, 2010.