

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1220

H.P. 911

House of Representatives, March 22, 2011

An Act To Improve the Workplace for State Employees

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILLETTE of Presque Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CLARK of Easton, EDGECOMB of Caribou, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GOODE
of Bangor, WILLETTE of Mapleton.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** Public Law 2003, chapter 20, Part U directs all state agencies to
4 implement measures to reduce energy consumption; and

5 **Whereas,** implementation of Public Law 2003, chapter 20, Part U has caused some
6 difficult working conditions; and

7 **Whereas,** immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to ensure that the
8 working conditions are made better for employees; and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

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

14 **Sec. 1. PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. U, §1** is amended to read:

15 **Sec. U-1. Energy savings required.** All state agencies are directed to implement
16 measures to reduce energy consumption within their agencies. Conservation measures to
17 be initiated must include regulating temperatures within offices to 68 degrees during the
18 heating season and 75 degrees during the cooling season and allowing the manager or
19 supervisor to regulate the thermostat to ensure that the entire work area of the office
20 reaches the required temperature, use of lower wattage lighting or fewer lights wherever
21 possible without affecting basic operation or safety and shutting off computers and other
22 electronic equipment when not in use. Ceramic space heaters may be used to bring the
23 temperature in a workstation to the required temperature. Vehicle use must be reduced to
24 the minimum amount necessary to carry out the agency mission. Each agency shall train
25 its staff to make necessary changes to meet this mandate and to identify other
26 opportunities for energy savings within the workplace. The Department of Administrative
27 and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall provide agencies with additional
28 actions that can be taken to reduce energy usage.

29 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
30 legislation takes effect when approved.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends Public Law 2003, chapter 20, Part U, which directs all state agencies
33 to implement measures to reduce energy consumption, to allow a manager or supervisor
34 to regulate the thermostat to ensure that an entire work area reaches the required
35 temperature and to allow the use of ceramic space heaters.