

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 398

H.P. 307

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

An Act To Allow for Greater Flexibility in Addressing Energy Efficiency Needs in the State

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, BERRY of Bowdoinham, CAIAZZO of
Scarborough, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, HANLEY of Pittston, RILEY of Jay, RISEMAN of
Harrison.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§4, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 282, §2, is
3 further amended to read:

4 A. ~~The trust shall allocate 50% of the funds for residential programs and 50% for~~
5 ~~commercial and industrial programs.~~ Trust funds must be allocated for measures,
6 investments, loans, technical assistance and arrangements that reduce electricity
7 consumption, increase energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
8 lower energy costs at commercial or industrial facilities and for investment in
9 measures that lower residential heating energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas
10 emissions. The measures that lower residential heating demand must be fuel-neutral
11 and may include, but are not limited to, energy efficiency improvements to residential
12 buildings and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce residential energy
13 costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the board. The trust shall
14 ensure that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available for low-
15 income households as defined by the trust. When promoting electricity cost and
16 consumption reduction, the trust may consider measures at commercial and industrial
17 facilities that also lower peak capacity demand. Subject to the apportionment
18 pursuant to this subsection, the trust shall fund conservation programs that give
19 priority to measures with the highest benefit-to-cost ratio, as long as cost-effective
20 collateral efficiency opportunities are not lost, and that:

21 (1) Reliably reduce greenhouse gas production and heating energy costs by fossil
22 fuel combustion in the State at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per
23 unit of emissions; or

24 (2) Reliably increase the efficiency with which energy in the State is consumed
25 at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of energy saved.

26 ~~Notwithstanding this paragraph, during fiscal years 2017-18 to 2019-20, the trust is~~
27 ~~not required to allocate 50% of the funds to residential programs and 50% of the~~
28 ~~funds to commercial and industrial programs and may instead allocate those funds to~~
29 ~~programs at the trust's discretion.~~

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill removes the provision that requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to allocate
32 50% of the funds in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund for residential
33 programs and 50% for commercial and industrial programs.