

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1207

S.P. 496

In Senate, March 20, 2025

**An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to
Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around Commercial Solar
Energy Developments**

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and
Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives:
BABIN of Fort Fairfield, COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of
Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA c. 44-A** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 44-A**

4 **SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT MONITORING PROGRAM**

5 **§4421. Definitions**

6 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
7 have the following meanings.

8 **1. Department.** "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.

9 **2. Operator.** "Operator" means the person operating a solar energy development.

10 **3. Solar energy development.** "Solar energy development" means a development
11 occupying 3 or more acres that uses a solar energy system consisting of ground-mounted
12 solar panels to convert solar energy to electrical energy for sale or use by a person other
13 than the generator. "Solar energy development" includes generating facilities and
14 associated facilities.

15 **§4422. Solar energy development air and water temperature monitoring program;**
16 **rules**

17 In consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the department
18 shall establish and administer a program to monitor air and water temperatures surrounding
19 solar energy developments. The department shall adopt rules necessary for the
20 establishment and administration of the program, which must include, but are not limited
21 to, provisions regarding the scope of monitoring to be conducted and the sharing of
22 monitoring information with the operator, other state agencies and the public. Rules
23 adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
24 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **§4423. Access to solar energy development site; authority of department**

26 The department shall administer the program established under section 4422 subject to
27 the same powers and authorities granted to it pursuant to Title 38, chapter 2, including, but
28 not limited to, the authority to enter a solar energy development site in accordance with
29 Title 38, section 347-C as necessary to administer the program.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
32 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to establish, adopt rules for and administer a
33 program to monitor air and water temperatures surrounding solar energy developments.
34 Under the bill, "solar energy development" is defined as a development occupying 3 or
35 more acres that uses a solar energy system consisting of ground-mounted solar panels to
36 convert solar energy to electrical energy for sale or use by a person other than the generator.