

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

## Legislative Document

No. 954

H. P. 749

House of Representatives, March 10, 1977

Referred to Committee on Energy. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

Cosponsor: Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

---

### AN ACT to Create a Commission on Energy Efficiency Building Performance Standards.

---

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

**Sec. 1. Commission; duties.** A special commission shall be constituted and appointed to prepare proposed energy efficiency building performance standards for the State of Maine, which shall be presented to the Legislative Council prior to the convening of the first regular session of the 109th Legislature, together with final draft copies of any proposed legislation. These standards shall contain minimum energy efficiency performance standards for residential, commercial, industrial and governmental buildings. In preparing these standards, the commission shall investigate the experience and energy efficiency performance standards of the United States Government, of other states, of foreign countries and of professional organizations, including the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. Standards for Energy Conservation in New Building Design. The commission shall also recommend methods of implementing these energy efficiency performance standards, which may include energy efficiency requirements for new construction and financial incentives for increasing the energy efficiency of already existing construction. The commission is further empowered to hold not more than 5 public hearings in various parts of the State in order to receive testimony concerning both proposed standards and proposed methods of implementing those standards. It is the purpose and intent of this Act to provide the commission with sufficient authority and funds to enable it to present to the Maine Legislature a complete, practical and efficient proposed code of energy efficiency building performance standards for construction.

The commission is authorized to apply for, receive and use funds from any source, including federal, foundation and private sources of funding.

**Sec. 2. Membership.** The membership of the commission shall consist of 11 persons. The President of the Senate shall appoint 2 members of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint 2 members of the House. The Governor shall appoint one member who is a registered professional architect, one member who is a registered professional engineer, one member who is a practicing contractor, one member who is a practicing building inspector, one member who represents the banking industry and 2 members, each of whom is an elected official of a county or municipality. Members shall serve for the lifetime of the commission. Any vacancies in commission membership occurring after the initial appointment shall be filled in the manner used to appoint the initial member whose seat is vacant.

**Sec. 3. Meetings.** The commission shall be appointed promptly upon the enactment of this Act and the Governor shall notify all members of the time and place of the first meeting. At that time the commission shall organize, elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer and adopt rules as to the administration of the commission and its affairs. The commission shall maintain minutes of its meetings and such financial records as may be required by the State Auditor and shall report periodically its progress to the Governor and to the Legislative Council.

**Sec. 4. Support services.** The Office of Energy Resources shall provide all necessary staff assistance, research aid, secretarial help and material support. That office shall provide meeting space and shall coordinate the activities of the commission. In addition, that office shall be responsible for the drafting, in final form, of any proposed legislative acts and of any proposed executive regulations which result from the findings of the commission.

**Sec. 5. Reimbursement of expenses.** The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expense in attending meetings, procuring supplies, correspondence and other related and necessary expenditures.

**Sec. 6. Funds.** The commissioner is authorized to apply for, receive and use funding from any source, including the Federal Government and private foundations, to further the study authorized by this Act.

**Sec. 7. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977, to carry out the purposes of this Act. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1978.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The costs of heating and lighting buildings in Maine is increasing dramatically. A large part of the problem is inadequate building design and construction. This bill would establish a commission to recommend building performance standards for energy and to consider the most feasible methods of implementing those standards, both in new and old buildings. The recommendations will be presented to the First Regular Session of the 109th Legislature.