

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 996

H. P. 800

House of Representatives, March 5, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Blodgett of Waldoboro, referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

Cosponsors: Mr. Austin of Bingham, Mr. Torrey of Poland and Mr. Baker of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Providing for the Consideration of Solar Energy Requirements in Comprehensive Plans.**

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

**30 MRSA § 4961, sub-§ 1, last sentence**, as amended by PL 1973, c. 536, § 17, is further amended to read:

The comprehensive plan may include planning techniques such as, but not limited to, planned unit development, site plan approval, open space zoning **and**, clustered development **and zoning to protect access to direct sunlight for solar energy use.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is intended to assist and encourage the efficient use of energy and the use of solar energy by permitting municipalities to consider energy use as a matter of public interest in the development of comprehensive plans. Energy use is affected by planning in a number of ways, in particular through its affect on transportation and on the orientation of buildings. It is important that communities evaluate their plans in light of the national need for energy conservation.

In addition, this bill would specifically authorize communities to adopt ordinances protecting direct access to sunlight for solar energy devices, or to review existing ordinances and adopt whatever amendments are necessary to provide that protection. This will allow communities and individuals to identify locations for solar energy devices which will be reasonably assured of direct access to sunlight.