

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1077

H. P. 872

House of Representatives, March 7, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Howe of South Portland, referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

Cosponsors: Mr. Doukas of Portland, Mr. Kiesman of Fryeburg and Mr. Howe of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Establish a Voluntary Training and Certification Program for
Installers of Solar Energy Equipment in Maine.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 5005, sub-§ 1, ¶ 0 is enacted to read:

0. In cooperation with the Plumbers' Examining Board, establish a voluntary training and certification program for installers of solar energy equipment.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA c. 85 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 85

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

FOR INSTALLERS OF SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT

§ 8001. Legislative findings and intent

The Legislature finds that the training and certification of installers of solar energy equipment would be beneficial for the health and safety of the public and would enable the consumer to have confidence in the proper installation of solar

energy systems in Maine. The purpose of this chapter, therefore, is to establish a voluntary training and certification program for solar equipment installers in order to assure the quality workmanship necessary to bring about increased utilization of solar energy and the public health and safety thereof.

§ 8002. Installation training

The Office of Energy Resources shall establish a voluntary training program for installers of solar energy equipment.

This training program shall consist of a minimum of 15 hours of instruction in the various aspects of solar energy system installation. The course content for the installation training program shall be developed by the Office of Energy Resources, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services. The Office of Energy Resources shall, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, promulgate all necessary rules pertaining to qualifications, certification and recertification of solar energy and inspection thereof, consistent with this chapter and Title 5, section 5005, subsection 1, paragraph O.

§ 8003. Installer certification

A solar energy installer's certificate, authorized by the Director of the Office of Energy Resources and the Commissioner of Human Services, shall be issued to those individuals who meet the following requirements:

1. **Training course and Examination.** Attendance of a minimum of 15 hours at an Office of Energy Resources' sponsored installation training course and successful completion of a written examination encompassing solar energy installation techniques;

2. **Experience.** Proof of at least one year of experience in the installation of solar energy equipment and proof of installation of at least 5 solar energy units, subject to an approved inspection by the Office of Energy Resources; or

3. **Competency in installation.** Completion of a solar energy installation training course which is determined by the Office of Energy Resources to equip an individual with the skills necessary to achieve competency in the installation of solar energy equipment.

§ 8004. Revocation or suspension of certification

The Office of Energy Resources shall investigate or cause to be investigated all complaints against certified solar energy installers and all cases of violations of this chapter. The Office of Energy Resources shall have the authority pursuant to Title 5, section 10004, to suspend or revoke a certification issued by it, or the Administrative Court may suspend or revoke the certification of a solar energy installer who is found guilty of:

1. **Fraud.** The practice of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certification pursuant to this chapter;

2. Negligence. Any gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct in the installation of any solar energy equipment;

3. Violation. Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter; or

4. Conviction of crime. Any crime for which the maximum term of imprisonment which may be imposed is equal to or exceeds one year.

§ 8005. Penalty provisions

Any person who falsely claims to the public to be a certified solar energy installer is guilty of a Class E crime and shall be deemed to be in violation of Title 5, chapter 10.

Any person who violates any of the rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$500 may be adjudged for each violation.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a voluntary training and certification program for installers of solar energy equipment in Maine.