

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1022**

H. P. 859

House of Representatives, February 25, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McHenry of Madawaska.

Cosponsors: Senator Dutremble of York, Representative Theriault of Fort Kent and Representative Swazey of Bucksport.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Encourage the Use of Wind Power.**

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

36 MRSA § 656, sub-§ 1, ¶ I is enacted to read:

I. All wind energy systems installed after January 1, 1981, are exempt from taxation when installed in residential buildings, multi-family residential buildings or commercial buildings. This exemption does not apply to any wind energy system that produces energy primary for resale. For purposes of this paragraph:

- (1) "Commercial building" means any building other than a residential or multi-family residential building which is used primarily to carry on a business, including any nonprofit business, and is not used primarily for the manufacture or production of raw materials, products or agricultural commodities;
- (2) "Multi-family residential building" means any building used as a residence which contains 5 or more dwelling units and has a system for heating;
- (3) "Residential building" means any building used as a residence which contains not more than 4 dwelling units and has a system for heating; and

**(4) "Wind energy system" means any machine or device which converts available wind energy into electrical or mechanical output form, including: The rotor; power processing components; the frame; control components; and associated energy storage devices.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to conserve scarce energy resources and reduce dependence on central electric generating stations by encouraging the use of a renewable resource, wind power. It will not reduce the tax base in any municipality because it will only apply to newly installed systems, which have never been part of that tax base. It will indirectly save money for all the people of Maine by reducing the need for expensive, new, central electric generating capacity.

The exemption does not apply to systems producing energy primarily for resale. For a system producing primarily for on-site use, incidental resale of excess power to the connecting utility is permitted.