

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1404

H. P. 1180 House of Representatives, March 19, 1981
Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for
concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Hobbins of Saco.

Cosponsors: Representative Soulas of Bangor, Senator Minkowsky of
Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Establish an Energy Conservation Program for Commercial and Light
Industrial Buildings.**

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

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

**Q. Establish and administer an energy conservation program for commercial
and light industrial buildings as defined in Title 10, chapter 222.**

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA c. 222 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 222

**ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR
COMMERCIAL AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS ACT**

§ 1496. Title

This chapter shall be known as the "Energy Conservation Program for
Commercial and Light Industrial Buildings Act."

1. **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise,
the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Commercial building" means any building which is owned and operated by a person, firm, partnership or corporation employing less than 100 persons which is used primarily for the wholesale or retail sale of goods or services.

B. "Director" means the Director of Energy Resources.

C. "Energy audit" means a report which delineates the energy consumption characteristics of the building, identifies appropriate energy conservation operation and maintenance procedures and recommends appropriate energy conservation measures.

D. "Energy conservation measure" means the installation of materials, equipment, or both, which are primarily designed to reduce energy consumption or allow the use of alternate energy.

E. "Energy conservation operation and maintenance procedures" mean modifications to the operation and maintenance of a building or any energy using system within that building which are designed to reduce the energy consumption within that building and which require no substantial expenditure of funds.

F. "Preliminary energy audit" means a determination of the energy consumption characteristics of a building including the size, type, rate of energy consumption and major energy-using systems of the building.

G. "Small industry" means a person, firm, partnership or corporation engaged in the manufacture of goods which employs less than 100 persons.

2. Allocation and disbursement of funds. The person, firm, partnership or corporation owning or operating a commercial or small industrial building is eligible for funding of up to 50% of the cost of an energy audit completed under this program.

The director shall, in accordance with Title 5, chapter 575, develop rules and regulations for the allocation and disbursement of funds provided by this chapter. These rules and regulations shall include, but are not limited to:

A. Provisions for this disbursement of funds to persons, firms, partnerships or corporations who have energy audits conducted for them by state-certified commercial building energy auditors who are not employees of the State; and

B. Provisions for establishing maximum matching grant amounts available to eligible parties.

3. Education report. The director shall evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this chapter and prepare a report for submittal to the first regular session of the 112th Maine Legislature. This report shall include, but not be limited to:

A. The number of energy audits performed;

B. The average cost of each audit;

- C. The estimated amount of energy saved through implementation of the energy audit recommendations;**
- D. The cost-effectiveness of the program; and**
- E. Recommendations regarding continuance of the program.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide direct, technical assistance to the commercial and light industrial sectors in assessing cost-effective energy conservation building improvements. Through the program described in this bill, commercial and light industrial building owners will be able to have energy audits performed at minimal cost by a trained professional. These energy audits will result in a detailed analysis of the energy consumption patterns and the most cost-effective conservation improvements for each building. Performance of these audits is the first step toward oil consumption reduction in Maine's buildings.

The commercial and light industrial sectors account for 25% of Maine's energy consumption. There are currently no government programs, federal or state, which provide technical assistance in energy matters for these sectors. This bill will provide funds to complete between 80 to 100 audits in a year.

The appropriation for this bill is contained in the Part II budget. The bill requests an appropriation of \$10,000 for 1982 and \$10,000 for 1983.