

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1496

6
7 S.P. 568

In Senate, May 9, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested
9 and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Brown of Washington.

Cosponsored by Representative Mitchell of Freeport, Representative
11 Coles of Harpswell and Representative Connolly of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Establish Mandatory Energy
18 Standards for Publicly-funded
19 Buildings.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1415-B is enacted to read:

24 §1415-B. Mandatory standards for publicly-funded
25 buildings

26 Any construction, renovation or change of use of
27 a residential or nonresidential building undertaken
28 after January 1, 1986, using any federal, state,
29 county or municipal funds or guarantees or using bond
30 proceeds of a governmental or quasi-governmental
31 agency shall conform to the standards established by
32 the director under the authority of section 1415-A.
33 For buildings located in municipalities which have
34 enacted police power ordinances regulating the con-
35 struction and renovation of buildings, the require-

1 ments of this section shall be enforced by the munic-
2 ipality. For buildings located in areas of the State
3 not covered by police power ordinances regulating the
4 construction and renovation of buildings, the re-
5 quirements of this section shall be enforced by the
6 Office of Energy Resources.

7 Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1420, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
8 503, §2, is amended to read:

9 §1420. Penalties

10 It shall be unlawful for any person to advertise
11 or promote that any residential or nonresidential
12 building conforms to the provisions of this chapter
13 unless a certificate of energy efficiency has been
14 granted for that building.

15 After January 1, 1986, it is unlawful for any
16 person to construct, renovate or change the use of
17 any residential or nonresidential building in viola-
18 tion of section 1415-B.

19 Any person who violates this ~~provisio~~ section
20 shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed
21 \$5,000, payable to the State, to be recovered in a
22 civil action.

23 STATEMENT OF FACT

24 A voluntary energy efficiency building standards
25 program has been in effect for 5 years. That program
26 establishes performance standards for heating, light-
27 ing and hot water equipment and building envelope
28 heat loss standards which builders may choose to com-
29 ply with. In spite of the existence of voluntary
30 standards, an alarming proportion of new buildings
31 continue to be built which are not energy efficient
32 and which rely on electricity for heating. That in-
33 creases the statewide demand for electricity which
34 the utilities must meet. One way to meet that demand
35 is to build new power plants. The cost of construct-
36 ing and operating new electric generating facilities
37 is escalating rapidly. Where new construction is nec-
38 essary, that cost is passed on to all consumers. If

1 possible, the best way to avoid incurring those costs
2 is to avoid the increased demand which would require
3 construction of new generating facilities. Energy ef-
4 ficient buildings help keep electricity demands low.

5 The purpose of this bill is to make the present
6 voluntary energy efficiency building standards manda-
7 tory for buildings constructed or substantially reno-
8 vated after January 1, 1986, which use public funds
9 or guarantees. Since that construction is carried out
10 with public money, it is reasonable that it be accom-
11 plished according to minimum energy efficiency stan-
12 dards so as not to contribute excessively to the in-
13 creased demand for electricity.

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