

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 746

S.P. 265

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In Senate, March 16, 1987

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate Presented by Senator USHER of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Electric Rate Reform Act as it Applies to Cost Recovery for Utility Financing of Energy Conservation.

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

Sec. 1. 35 MRSA §93, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 697, §3, is amended to read:

10 5. Utility financing of energy conservation. 11 Electric utility financing or subsidization of capi-12 tal improvements undertaken by ratepayers to conserve 13 the ratepayer's future use of electricity. The com-14 mission may approve and allow cost recovery for pro-15 posals for financing conservation that require or al-16 low investments in fuels other than electricity, pro-

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1	vided that the proposals contemplate substantial con-
2	servation of electricity and provided that the pro-
3	posals limit financing to projects reasonably ex-
4	pected to be repaid by the person being financed.
5	Nothing in this section may be construed to require
6	an electric utility to invest in fuel and fuel use
7	other than electricity.

8 Sec. 2. Applicability. This bill shall apply to 9 prospective and current programs for utility financ-10 ing of energy conservation or load management that 11 the commission has already approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

13 This bill clarifies the authority of the Public 14 Utilities Commission to allow utilities to recover 15 costs for financing conservation projects that con-16 template significant electric savings accompanied by 17 some savings in nonelectric fuels. As the Electric 18 Rate Reform Act now reads, the extent to which the Public Utilities Commission may order ratepayers to 19 20 contribute to full-scale conservation programs that 21 are expected to produce both electric and nonelectric 22 energy savings is unclear. This bill will allow the 23 Public Utilities Commission to order recovery for 24 those program costs.

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