

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2155

S.P. 829

In Senate, January 27, 1988

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KERRY of York.

Cosponsored by Representative HOLLOWAY of Edgecomb, Senator LUDWIG of Arostook, Representative MICHAUD of East Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Establish Minimum Mandatory Energy**
2 **Standards for Residential Buildings.**
3

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

6 **Sec. 1.** 10 **MRSA §1413, sub-§16, as enacted by**
7 **PL 1979, c. 503, §2, is repealed and the following**
8 **enacted in its place:**

1 16. Residential building. "Residential building"
2 means a single or multifamily structure designed for
3 year-round use which is either centrally or
4 electrically heated.

5 Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1413, sub-§17 is enacted to
6 read:

7 17. R-Value. "R-Value" means the measure of the
8 resistance of a material to the passage of heat.

9 Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1415-C is enacted to read:

10 §1415-C. Mandatory standards for residential buildings

11 1. Conformance. Any new single or multifamily
12 residential building built after January 1, 1989,
13 shall be constructed so as to meet, at the minimum,
14 the prescriptive ceiling, wall, floor, foundation and
15 window thermal performance characteristics set out in
16 this subsection.

17 A. Ceilings must be insulated to R-38, at the
18 minimum.

19 B. Walls must be insulated to R-19, at the
20 minimum.

21 C. Floors over unheated spaces must be insulated
22 to R-19, at the minimum.

23 D. Slab-on-grade floors must have perimeter
24 insulation of R-10, at the minimum. This
25 insulation must either extend downward from the
26 top of the slab to the design frost line, or
27 around the perimeter itself and horizontally
28 beneath the slab for distance equivalent to the
29 depth of the frost line.

30 E. Foundation walls enclosing heated spaces must
31 be insulated from the top of the foundation to the
32 frost line to R-10, at the minimum.

33 F. All windows must be double glazed, at the
34 minimum.

1 which are either centrally or electrically heated.
2 Seasonal structures without such heating systems,
3 out-buildings and other unheated structures associated
4 with residential buildings are, by definition, exempt
5 from these standards. The Office of Energy Resources
6 will administer and enforce these standards.

7 The Office of Energy Resources estimates that from
8 10,000 to 12,000 year-round housing units were built
9 in this State in 1986. Of those units, an estimated
10 25% to 35% would not meet the minimum standards
11 proposed in this bill. Requiring that all new
12 residential construction meet minimum standards would
13 result in savings of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000
14 annually at today's energy prices. The annual savings
15 will increase as fuel costs rise and as more housing
16 is built. Enactment of this bill, under any
17 reasonable set of assumptions, will produce savings in
18 excess of \$50,000,000 annually by the turn of the
19 century.

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