MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 306

S.P. 158

In Senate, February 22, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BOST of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative HANDY of Lewiston and Representative PAUL of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Promote Conservation Purchases by Electric Utilities.

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

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35-A MRSA §3192 is enacted to read:

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§3192. Demand management energy

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To further the development of conservation and load management programs in the State, electric utilities shall be required to purchase demand management energy and capacity savings from nonutility providers of that energy and capacity savings at a rate equal to 20% more than the cost of the electric energy and capacity to the electric utility which, except for the purchase of demand management energy and capacity from the provider, the utility would generate or purchase from another source. Demand management energy and capacity savings includes savings produced from conservation and load management programs.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill development of encourages further management programs in the State. In the Maine Energy Policy Act of 1988 the Legislature recognized that utilities should give conservation preference over cogeneration and Canadian purchases when developing least-cost energy plans. Under this bill, electric utilities would be required to pay 20% more than their established avoided cost for energy and capacity purchased from nonutility providers of demand side management energy savings. The 20% premium is established to recognize that meeting energy needs through conservation has no environmental impact, does not result in energy losses through transmission and distribution lines and avoids any reserve margin requirement established by the New England Power Planning Pool.