

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 330

H.P. 251

House of Representatives, February 4, 1993

**An Act Regarding Energy Standards for Electrically Heated Residential Buildings.**

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Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEESCHEN of Wilton.  
Cosponsored by Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: KUTASI of Bridgton, MITCHELL of Freeport.

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

2           Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1415-G, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 275, §3  
4 and affected by §§4 and 5, is repealed.

6           Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §§1415-H and 1415-I are enacted to read:

8           §1415-H. Standards for electrically heated residential buildings

10           1. Prescriptive standard. A person may not install  
12 electric space heating equipment as the primary space heating  
14 system in any residential building constructed or renovated after  
January 1, 1994 unless that building conforms to the following  
standards.

16           A. All ceilings that face an outdoor or unheated space must  
18 be insulated to an R-value of 57 or greater.

20           B. All walls that face an outdoor or unheated space must be  
insulated to an R-value of 38 or greater.

22           C. All floors over unheated spaces must be insulated to an  
24 R-value of 25 or greater.

26           D. Slab-on-grade floors must have perimeter insulation of  
either:

28           (1) R-15 when the insulation extends downward from the  
30 top of the slab to the design frost line; or

32           (2) R-15 when the insulation extends around the  
34 perimeter and horizontally or diagonally beneath or  
away from the slab for a distance equivalent to the  
depth of the frost line.

36           E. All foundation walls adjacent to a heated space must be  
38 insulated from the top of the foundation to the frost line  
to an R-value of 19 or greater.

40           F. All windows and glass in doors, when the glass in the  
42 door constitutes 1/3 or more of the door area, must have a  
total window unit R-value of 2.5 or greater.

44           G. All exterior doors must be insulated or equipped with a  
46 storm door.

48           H. All new construction and renovation must comply with  
infiltration and ventilation standards established by the  
50 commissioner.

52           2. Performance-based compliance. The commissioner may  
waive the requirements of subsection 1 for any building if the

2 commissioner determines that that building's calculated annual  
3 energy consumption is not greater than the annual energy  
4 consumption of a similar building constructed in accordance with  
5 subsection 1.

6 **§1415-I. Penalty; subsidized multifamily residential building**

8 A person who installs electric space heating equipment as  
9 the primary heating system in a subsidized multifamily  
10 residential building that does not conform to the standards set  
11 forth in section 1415-H commits a civil violation for which a  
12 forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than 5% of the value of  
13 the construction may be adjudged. For the purposes of this  
14 section, the term "subsidized" means construction, remodeling or  
15 renovation that is funded in whole or in part by public funds,  
16 guarantees or bond proceeds and the term "multifamily residential  
17 building" means a structure with more than one dwelling unit.

18 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 1994.  
19

20  
21 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

22  
23 This bill repeals the standards for electrically heated  
24 subsidized multifamily housing and enacts those same standards as  
25 minimum standards applicable to any residential building  
26 constructed or renovated after January 1, 1994. The Commissioner  
27 of Economic and Community Development may waive the standards if  
28 the commissioner determines that an alternative method of  
29 construction achieves at least the same level of efficiency as  
30 would be achieved under the standards. The bill retains the  
31 penalty provisions currently applicable to persons who violate  
32 energy standards established for electrically heated, subsidized,  
33 multifamily residences.  
34