

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 284, L.D. 371, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Conversion of Fuel Systems"

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause and before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. XII-A is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER XII-A

FUEL CONVERSION ASSISTANCE

§4981. Fuel Conversion Fund

1. Creation of fund. There is established the Fuel Conversion Fund, referred to in this subchapter as the "fund," to assist low-income residential energy consumers in making conversions of electric space heating systems to systems employing other fuel sources. The fund is nonlapsing and is administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.

2. Sources of fund. The fund consists of the following:

A. All money appropriated or allocated to the fund, from whatever source;

B. Subject to any pledge, contract or other obligation, all interest, dividends or other pecuniary gains from investment of money in the fund;

C. Subject to any pledge, contract, fee or other obligation, any money that the Maine State Housing Authority receives in repayment of advances from the fund; and

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2 D. Any other money available to and directed by the Maine
4 State Housing Authority to be paid into the fund.

6 3. Division and application of fund. The Maine State
8 Housing Authority may divide the fund into separate accounts as
10 it determines necessary or convenient for carrying out the
12 purposes of this subchapter. The fund is applied as provided in
14 section 4982.

16 §4982. Use of funds

18 The Maine State Housing Authority may use the money in the
20 fund as follows.

22 1. Loans. The Maine State Housing Authority may make loans
24 to low-income residential consumers of electric energy to allow
26 those consumers to undertake cost-effective investments in
28 conversions of electric space heating systems to systems
30 employing other fuel sources.

32 2. Grants. The Maine State Housing Authority may make
34 grants to low-income residential consumers of electric energy to
36 allow those consumers to undertake cost-effective conversions of
38 electric space heating systems to systems employing other fuel
40 sources.

42 3. Investment. Money in the fund not needed to meet the
44 obligations of the authority under this subchapter may be
46 invested by the Maine State Housing Authority in a manner
48 permitted by law.

50 4. Administrative costs. Subject to any requirements or
limitations under federal law governing the use of money in the
fund, the Maine State Housing Authority may use up to 15% of the
money in the fund to cover the costs of administering the fund.

§4983. Rules

The Maine State Housing Authority shall adopt rules to
implement this subchapter, including rules that establish
eligibility criteria for recipients of loans and repayment terms
and eligibility criteria for recipients of grants.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from the Stripper Well Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2 MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

4 All Other \$1,000,000

6 Provides for the allocation of the Stripper
8 Well Fund to the Fuel Conversion Fund
10 established in the Maine Revised Statutes,
12 Title 30-A, section 4981 for the purposes of
14 making loans and grants to low-income
persons to aid in converting electric space
heating systems to systems using other
sources of fuel.'

16 Further amend the bill to renumber the sections to read
18 consecutively.

20 Further amend the bill by inserting before the statement of
fact the following:

22 FISCAL NOTE

24 The Public Utilities Commission will experience some minor
26 administrative savings from the repeal of its responsibility to
order electric utilities to develop cost-effective fuel
conversion programs.

28 The Maine State Housing Authority will incur some minor
30 additional costs to administer the Fuel Conversion Fund. The
32 \$1,000,000 allocation of the Stripper Well Fund in fiscal year
1993-94 for loans and grants to low-income people and related
34 administrative costs is subject to Department of Energy
approval. If approval is not granted for these purposes, the
36 Maine State Housing Authority will require additional General
Fund appropriations. The exact amount can not be determined at
this time.

38 The Governor's proposed supplemental budget includes changes
40 which may affect the availability of the Stripper Well Fund.
42 This estimate of the fiscal impact may need to be adjusted based
on final legislative actions on the supplemental budget.'

44 STATEMENT OF FACT

46 This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing
48 Committee on Utilities.

