

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 290

H.P. 234

House of Representatives, January 19, 2007

An Act To Encourage the Use of Solar Energy

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CEBRA of Naples.
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: CRESSEY of Cornish, DUPREY of Hampden, FLETCHER of Winslow,
LANSLEY of Sabattus, McKANE of Newcastle, RINES of Wiscasset, SAVIELLO of Wilton,
Senator: HASTINGS of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§3**, as reallocated by RR 2005, c. 1, §17, is
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Funding level; fund.** The commission shall assess transmission and distribution
5 utilities to collect funds for the solar energy rebate program in accordance with this
6 subsection. The amount of all assessments by the commission under this subsection must
7 result in total program expenditures by each transmission and distribution utility that do
8 not exceed 0.005 cent per kilowatt-hour. To the extent practicable, the commission shall
9 establish and collect the assessment in a manner that is consistent with the assessment
10 made under section 3211-A. The commission shall establish a solar energy rebate
11 program fund to be used solely for the purposes of this section. All assessments made
12 under this subsection are deposited in the fund. Any interest on funds in the fund must be
13 credited to the fund. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the fund to be used for
14 the purposes of this section. In each fiscal year, ~~25%~~ 75% of the fund is allotted to solar
15 photovoltaic system rebates and ~~75%~~25% of the fund is allotted to solar thermal system
16 rebates.

17 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§6**, as reallocated by RR 2005, c. 1, §17, is
18 amended to read:

19 **6. Limitation to residents of State; repeal.** Participation in the solar energy rebate
20 program and fund established in this section is limited to residents of the State. This
21 section is repealed December 31, ~~2008~~ 2012.

22 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
23 allocations are made.

24 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

25 **Solar Rebate Program Fund Z012**

26 Initiative: Appropriates ongoing additional funds for solar photovoltaic system rebates.

27

28 GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008-09
29 All Other	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
30		
31 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,500,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill increases the amount set aside for solar photovoltaic system rebates from
34 25% to 75% of the amount assessed the transmission and distribution utilities for the solar
35 energy rebate program and extends the solar energy rebate program until December 31,

1 2012. This bill also makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,500,000 in fiscal
2 years 2007-08 and 2008-09 for solar photovoltaic system rebates.