

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 645

H.P. 494

House of Representatives, February 8, 2007

An Act To Promote Municipal Energy Conservation

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EBERLE of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: BEAUDETTE of Biddeford, BLISS of South Portland, DILL of Cape
Elizabeth, DUCHESNE of Hudson, KAENRATH of South Portland, MARLEY of Portland,
PERCY of Phippsburg, WOODBURY of Yarmouth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5953-F** is enacted to read:

3 **§5953-F. Grants for municipal energy savings evaluations**

4 **1. Municipal Energy Savings Evaluation Fund.** The bank shall establish a fund
5 called the Municipal Energy Savings Evaluation Fund, referred to in this section as “the
6 fund.” The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to municipalities to
7 identify cost-effective improvements to achieve energy savings. The fund consists of
8 sums that are appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of this section, interest
9 earned from the investment of fund balances and any other funds from any public or
10 private source that are received by the bank for use for the purpose of this section. The
11 bank shall make grants from the fund in accordance with this section to no fewer than 5
12 municipalities and no more than 10 municipalities annually. The value of a grant to a
13 municipality may not exceed \$40,000.

14 **2. Municipal energy savings evaluation grants.** A municipality may apply for a
15 grant from the fund, the proceeds of which must be used by the municipality to identify
16 cost-effective energy conservation measures and improvements to municipal buildings
17 and municipal vehicle fleets to achieve energy savings. The bank may prescribe an
18 application form or procedure for a municipality to apply for a grant under this section.
19 The application must include all information necessary for the purpose of implementing
20 this section. A municipality may apply for a grant from the fund regardless of whether the
21 municipality intends to obtain or subsequently obtains a loan pursuant to section 5953-D
22 to finance energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings. The bank shall
23 develop criteria and conditions for the awarding of grants to municipalities from the fund
24 after consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the Executive Department,
25 State Planning Office.

26 **3. Municipal building audit requirements.** In the case of municipal buildings,
27 cost-effective energy conservation measures and improvements to achieve energy savings
28 identified under a grant provided from the fund must be identified through a
29 comprehensive energy audit performed by a professional engineer licensed in this State.
30 The audit must address compliance with the current version of ASHRAE Standard 62,
31 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality, developed by the American Society of
32 Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. Cost-effective improvements
33 to municipal buildings may include, but are not limited to, improvements to heating and
34 cooling systems, windows, insulation, lighting and equipment.

35 **4. Report to the Legislature.** The bank shall report on the fund program to the joint
36 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy
37 matters no later than January 1st of each odd-numbered year. The bank may make any
38 recommendations it finds necessary to achieve the purposes of this section more
39 effectively, including the appropriation of any necessary additional funds.

SUMMARY

1
2 This bill establishes funding to provide grants to municipalities to identify cost-
3 effective energy conservation measures and improvements to municipal buildings and
4 municipal vehicle fleets to achieve energy savings. The bill provides for grants of up to
5 \$40,000 for 5 to 10 municipalities annually. The bill directs the Maine Municipal Bond
6 Bank to administer the grants and directs the bank to develop criteria for the grants in
7 consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the Executive Department, State
8 Planning Office. The bill requires that conservation measures and improvements in
9 municipal buildings identified with grant funds be identified through a comprehensive
10 energy audit performed by a licensed professional engineer. The bill requires the bank to
11 report on the program every 2 years to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
12 having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters.