

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 1942

H.P. 1376

House of Representatives, December 12, 2007

An Act To Provide a Rebate for Clean Energy Geothermal Heating Units

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 11, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CARTER of Bethel.
Cosponsored by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and
Representatives: LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, MAREAN of Hollis, PIEH of Bremen, PIOTTI of
Unity, PRATT of Eddington, Senator: NUTTING of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-D** is enacted to read:

3 **§3211-D. Geothermal energy rebate program; fund**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,
5 "geothermal system" means a mechanism or series of mechanisms designed to heat air or
6 water by a method that extracts or converts the heat energy naturally occurring beneath
7 the earth's surface.

8 **2. Geothermal energy rebate program.** To the extent that funds are available in
9 the fund established in subsection 3, an owner or tenant of residential or commercial
10 property located in the State is entitled to a rebate for a geothermal system that is installed
11 in accordance with this subsection after July 1, 2008 and connected to the electrical grid.

12 **A.** A geothermal system designed to heat water qualifies for a rebate of 25% of the
13 cost of the system, including installation, or \$1,250, whichever is less, if the system is
14 installed by a licensed plumber who has been certified by the commission to install
15 such systems or by a licensed plumber working in conjunction with a person who has
16 been certified by the commission to install such systems.

17 **B.** A geothermal system designed to heat air qualifies for a rebate of 25% of the cost
18 of the system, including installation, or \$1,250, whichever is less.

19 In the case of a newly constructed residence, the rebate must be available to the original
20 owner or occupant.

21 **3. Funding level; fund.** The commission shall assess transmission and distribution
22 utilities to collect funds for the geothermal energy rebate program in accordance with this
23 subsection. The amount of all assessments by the commission under this subsection must
24 result in total program expenditures by each transmission and distribution utility that do
25 not exceed 0.005 cent per kilowatt-hour. To the extent practicable, the commission shall
26 establish and collect the assessment in a manner that is consistent with the assessment
27 made under section 3211-A. The commission shall establish a geothermal energy rebate
28 program fund to be used solely for the purposes of this section. All assessments made
29 under this subsection must be deposited in the fund. Any interest on funds in the fund
30 must be credited to the fund. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the fund to be
31 used for the purposes of this section.

32 **4. Rules.** The commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions
33 of this section, including procedures and standards for demonstrating qualification for a
34 rebate under this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules
35 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

36 **5. Report.** The commission shall report by December 1st of each year to the joint
37 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy
38 matters a description of actions taken by the commission pursuant to this section during
39 the prior 12 months.

