

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2061

H.P. 1445

House of Representatives, December 21, 2007

An Act To Clarify the Qualifications of Installers under the Solar Energy Rebate Program

(EMERGENCY)

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 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 MILLER of Somerville.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BLANCHARD of Old Town, BLISS of South Portland,
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, MacDONALD of Boothbay.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** installers of solar energy systems have to take a course to be qualified to
4 install solar energy systems; and

5 **Whereas,** current law requires that a licensed plumber sign off on the installation of
6 a solar thermal water system that is installed by a qualified solar thermal water system
7 installer before a person may receive a solar energy rebate; and

8 **Whereas,** it is necessary that the rules be amended as soon as possible so that solar
9 thermal water systems that have been installed by qualified installers may be approved
10 and rebates may be issued without having a licensed plumber sign off on the installation;
11 and

12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
15 therefore,

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

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

19 C. "Solar thermal system" means ~~a configuration of solar collectors and a pump, heat~~
20 ~~exchanger and storage tank or fans designed to heat water or air~~ space heating
21 system, a domestic water heating system or a space and domestic water heating
22 system. Solar thermal system types include forced circulation, integral collector
23 storage, thermosyphon and self-pumping systems.

24 **Sec. 2. Rules amended.** The Public Utilities Commission shall amend its rules
25 pertaining to the solar energy rebate program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-
26 A, section 3211-C.

27 1. The Public Utilities Commission shall amend the definition of "solar thermal
28 system" to remove "configuration of solar collectors and a pump, heat exchanger and
29 storage tank or fans designed to heat water or air" and insert "space heating system,
30 domestic water heating system or a space and domestic water heating system."

31 2. The Public Utilities Commission shall amend the definition of "qualified solar
32 thermal water system installer" by removing reference to "licensed plumber" and the
33 necessary qualifications and replacing it with language requiring that a technician in good
34 standing with the commission has successfully completed an approved solar thermal
35 training course and carries a current license as a master plumber, master oil burner
36 technician or propane and natural gas technician or is a class 2 or 3 nationally certified
37 refrigeration technician.

