

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 501

S.P. 196

In Senate, February 12, 2009

**An Act To Ensure Maine's Energy Security and Reduce Dependence
on Oil**

Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERRY of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative BUTTERFIELD of Bangor and
Representatives: GOODE of Bangor, MARTIN of Orono.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to increase the State's energy security while reducing the State's
6 reliance on oil by:

7 1. Setting aside 85% of revenues derived from the Regional Greenhouse Gas
8 Initiative to:

9 A. Immediately establish an insulation and energy auditing training program at every
10 community college in the State;

11 B. Provide a tax exemption for purchases of building insulation;

12 C. Establish a low-interest loan program for homeowners and businesses to purchase
13 insulation;

14 D. Establish a low-interest marginal risk loan program for equipment and costs to
15 start up insulation companies;

16 E. Provide a progressive tax credit to companies interested in maximizing the
17 insulation value of their buildings, with a higher insulation value receiving a larger
18 tax credit; and

19 F. Insulate homes of low-income residents;

20 2. Redirecting the focus of the Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine
21 program from electricity use reduction to energy use reduction by:

22 A. Aggressively promoting the reduction of oil use;

23 B. Requiring that preference be given to an energy-saving project based on the return
24 of investment of the project, regardless of the energy source;

25 C. Promoting the use of heat pump technology, giving top economic incentives to
26 exceptionally high coefficients of performance; and

27 D. Aggressively pursuing Internet-based demand-side management programs; and

28 3. Establish a tax on oil equal to the BTU tax on electricity, the proceeds to fund
29 Efficiency Maine.