

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 845

H.P. 581

House of Representatives, March 3, 2009

An Act To Expand Access to Efficiency Maine Rebate Programs

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.

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

2 Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§1, ¶D is enacted to read:

3 D. "State median household income" means the median household income for the
4 State computed from the most current United States census information available, as
5 provided by the Executive Department, State Planning Office.

6 Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 661, Pt. D, §1,
7 is further amended to read:

8 **3. Funding level; fund.** The commission shall assess transmission and distribution
9 utilities to collect funds for the solar and wind energy rebate program in accordance with
10 this subsection. The amount of all assessments by the commission under this subsection
11 must result in total program expenditures by each transmission and distribution utility that
12 do not exceed 0.005 cent per kilowatt-hour. To the extent practicable, the commission
13 shall establish and collect the assessment in a manner that is consistent with the
14 assessment made under section 3211-A. The commission shall establish a solar and wind
15 energy rebate program fund to be used solely for the purposes of this section. All
16 assessments made under this subsection are deposited in the fund. Any interest on funds
17 in the fund must be credited to the fund. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the
18 fund to be used for the purposes of this section. The commission shall determine the
19 allotment of the fund in each fiscal year between solar photovoltaic system rebates, solar
20 thermal system rebates and qualified wind energy system rebates, with a minimum of
21 20% of the fund provided to each of the 3 types of rebates. For the first 6 months of each
22 fiscal year, the commission shall divide the available funds for each of the 3 types of
23 rebates.

24 A. Fifty percent of the available funds must be allotted for rebates for owners or
25 tenants of residential property whose household income is at or below the state
26 median household income.

27 B. Fifty percent of the available funds must be allotted for rebates for owners or
28 tenants of residential property whose household income is above the state median
29 household income and for owners or tenants of commercial property.

30 For the remaining 6 months of each fiscal year, the commission may distribute the
31 remaining funds available for each of the 3 types of rebates without reference to the
32 restrictions in paragraphs A and B.

33 SUMMARY

34 This bill amends the solar and wind energy rebate program administered by the
35 Public Utilities Commission to set aside 50% of the funds available for rebates to owners
36 or tenants of residential or commercial property during the first 6 months of each fiscal
37 year specifically for rebates to residential applicants whose household income is at or
38 below the state median household income. During the remainder of the year, the bill
39 authorizes the commission to distribute the remaining funds available for rebates without
40 reference to the applicant's income level or property type.