

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1095

H.P. 757

House of Representatives; March 19, 2009

An Act To Provide Affordable Installation of Alternative Energy Systems

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BECK of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator HOBBS of York and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, FLAHERTY of Scarborough, TRINWARD of
Waterville, Senator: BOWMAN of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§1, ¶A-3** is enacted to read:

3 A-3. "Eligible solar rebate applicant" means an owner or tenant of residential or
4 commercial property in this State who has a qualified solar energy system installed
5 on the property or a person who performs the installation of a qualified solar energy
6 system for an owner or tenant of residential or commercial property in this State.

7 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§1, ¶A-4** is enacted to read:

8 A-4. "Eligible wind rebate applicant" means an owner or tenant of residential or
9 commercial property in this State who has a qualified wind energy system installed
10 on the property.

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

13 **2. Solar and wind energy rebate program.** To the extent that funds are available
14 in the fund established in subsection 3 and the requirements of this subsection and
15 subsection 2-A are satisfied, an owner or tenant of residential or commercial property
16 located in the State an eligible solar rebate applicant is entitled to a rebate for a qualified
17 solar energy system that is installed in accordance with this subsection after July 1, 2005
18 that will be connected to the electrical grid or and an eligible wind rebate applicant is
19 entitled to a rebate for a qualified wind energy system that is installed in accordance with
20 this subsection after January 1, 2009 that will be connected to the electrical grid. There
21 may be only one applicant per qualified solar energy system or qualified wind energy
22 system installed. The commission shall set rebate levels for qualified solar energy
23 systems and qualified wind energy systems. In setting rebate levels, the commission may
24 consider market demand for qualified solar energy systems and qualified wind energy
25 systems, program implementation experience and other factors relevant to the solar
26 energy and wind energy rebate program.

27 A. To qualify for a rebate, a solar photovoltaic system must meet the following
28 installation requirements:

29 (1) For a system installed after July 1, 2005 but before January 1, 2007, the
30 system must be installed by a master electrician who has completed a training
31 course to prepare for certification by a North American board of certified energy
32 practitioners or by a master electrician working in conjunction with either a
33 person who has been certified by a North American board of certified energy
34 practitioners or a person who has completed a training course to prepare for
35 certification by a North American board of certified energy practitioners; or

36 (2) For a system installed on or after January 1, 2007, the system must be
37 installed by a master electrician who has been certified by a North American
38 board of certified energy practitioners or by a master electrician working in
39 conjunction with a person who has been certified by a North American board of
40 certified energy practitioners.

1 B. To qualify for a rebate, a solar thermal system designed to heat water must be
2 installed by a qualified solar thermal water system installer and, if the solar thermal
3 system is designed to heat potable water, it must be installed by a qualified solar
4 thermal water system installer who holds a current license as a master plumber or by
5 a qualified solar thermal water system installer working in conjunction with a master
6 plumber.

7 D. To qualify for a rebate, the electrical components of a qualified wind energy
8 system must be installed by a master electrician or by a factory trained and approved
9 dealer for the qualified wind energy system working under the supervision of a
10 master electrician.

11 In the case of a newly constructed residence, the rebate must be available to the original
12 owner or occupant or the person who performs the installation for the original owner or
13 tenant.

14 **Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 158, §2, is
15 amended to read:

16 **2-A. Energy audit requirement; solar photovoltaic system.** To qualify for a
17 rebate for a solar photovoltaic system under this section, an ~~owner or tenant of residential~~
18 ~~or commercial property located in the State~~ eligible solar rebate applicant must
19 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission that an energy audit, as defined by the
20 commission by rule, has been completed.

21 **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3211-C, sub-§2-B** is enacted to read:

22 **2-B. Pass-through requirement for solar rebates paid to installers.** When an
23 installer applies for a rebate for a qualified solar energy system, the installer shall pass
24 through 100% of the rebate received for that qualified solar energy system to the owner
25 or tenant for whom the installer installed the qualified solar energy system. For the
26 purposes of this subsection, "installer" means a person who performs the installation of a
27 qualified solar energy system for an owner or tenant of residential or commercial
28 property in this State.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 Under current law governing the solar and wind energy rebate program, an owner or
31 tenant of residential or commercial property may receive a rebate for a qualified solar
32 energy system that is installed on the property. This bill amends the law to provide that
33 the installer of a qualified solar energy system or the owner or tenant of the property on
34 which the qualified solar energy system is installed may receive the rebate. If the
35 installer receives the rebate, the installer is required to pass through 100% of the rebate to
36 the property owner or tenant.