

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/4/19

H. G. S.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 949, L.D. 1348, Bill, "An Act To Provide Grants to Public Educational and Municipal Entities for Feasibility Studies of Renewable Energy Projects"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Provide Grants to Public Educational and Municipal Entities for Feasibility Studies of Renewable Energy Projects'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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

Whereas, promoting renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency are significant priorities of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and

Whereas, significant funding from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will be disbursed to the Public Utilities Commission in the immediate future for energy initiatives, including renewable energy programs; and

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

Sec. 1. Feasibility studies for renewable energy projects. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall, to the extent allowed, apply federal funds received by the commission under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide grants to public educational and municipal entities to conduct feasibility studies for the installation and operation of cost-effective renewable energy projects on public property. For purposes of this section, "public educational and municipal entities" includes the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Community College System, counties, municipalities, quasi-municipal corporations or
2 districts and school administrative units, and "public property" means land, structures,
3 facilities and other real property under the ownership or control of public educational and
4 municipal entities.

5 Subject to the availability of funds and qualified applicants, the commission shall
6 select grant recipients for feasibility studies under this section and shall determine the
7 amount of funding distributed to each recipient. In selecting grant recipients under this
8 section, the commission shall give priority to proposals from public educational and
9 municipal entities that have committed to fund at least 10% of the cost of the feasibility
10 study either in a financial commitment or an equivalent value of volunteer or in-kind
11 contributions as determined by the commission; and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Rules. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission may adopt rules,
13 as necessary, to implement this resolve. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
14 technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
15 2-A; and be it further

16 **Sec. 3. Reports. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall prepare
17 and submit an interim report and a final report to the joint standing committee of the
18 Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters regarding grants provided
19 to public educational and municipal entities to conduct feasibility studies for installation
20 and operation of renewable energy projects on public property in accordance with section
21 1. The interim report must be submitted no later than April 1, 2010, and the final report
22 must be submitted no later than December 31, 2011.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
24 legislation takes effect when approved.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and adds an emergency preamble and
27 clause. The resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to utilize federal stimulus
28 funds made available under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
29 2009 to provide grants to public educational and municipal entities to conduct feasibility
30 studies for the installation and operation of cost-effective renewable energy projects on
31 public property. The amendment directs the commission to give priority to applicants
32 that commit to fund 10% of the cost of the feasibility study either in a financial
33 commitment or the equivalent value of volunteer or in-kind contributions. The
34 amendment authorizes the commission to adopt rules as necessary to administer the
35 grants and directs the Public Utilities Commission to submit an interim report to the joint
36 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy
37 matters by April 1, 2010 and a final report no later than December 31, 2011 regarding the
38 grants provided.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1348

LR 1364(02)

An Act To Provide Grants to Public Educational and Municipal Entities for Feasibility Studies of Renewable Energy Projects

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Utilities and Energy

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs to the Public Utilities Commission associated with establishing and administering a grant program and other administrative duties can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.