

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1348

H.P. 949

House of Representatives, March 31, 2009

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

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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-D** is enacted to read:

3       **§3211-D. Renewable energy projects; feasibility studies**

4               **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6               A. "Public property" means land, structures, facilities and other real property under  
7 the ownership or control of a public educational or municipal entity.

8               B. "Public educational and municipal entities" includes the University of Maine  
9 System, the Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Community College System,  
10 municipalities, quasi-municipal corporations or districts, as defined in Title 30-A,  
11 section 2351 and school administrative units as defined in Title 20-A, section 1.

12               C. "Renewable energy project" means the installation and operation of an energy-  
13 generating facility that produces energy from a renewable resource.

14               D. "Renewable resource" has the same meaning as in section 3210, subsection 2,  
15 paragraph C.

16               **2. Grant program.** The commission shall by rule establish and administer a  
17 program to provide grants to public educational and municipal entities to conduct  
18 feasibility studies for renewable energy projects to be developed on public property.  
19 Feasibility studies funded by the program must evaluate the costs and benefits of  
20 proposed renewable energy projects, including, but not limited to, the expected energy  
21 generation output and the potential to mitigate energy costs over the life of the project.  
22 Feasibility studies may include technical and engineering analysis and site visits to  
23 evaluate the capacity for generation output based on site-specific factors and system  
24 design.

25               **3. Funding.** The commission may apply to the Energy and Carbon Savings Trust  
26 established in section 10008, subsection 2 for funding for the grant program established  
27 in subsection 2.

28               **4. Rules.** The commission shall adopt rules to administer the program. Rules adopted  
29 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
30 subchapter 2-A.

31       **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10008, sub-§6, ¶M** is enacted to read:

32               **M.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the commission may apply  
33 to the trust for funding from the trust fund to provide grants for feasibility studies of  
34 renewable energy projects pursuant to section 3211-D and, upon application of the  
35 commission, the trust may provide funding for that purpose.

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## SUMMARY

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish and administer a program to provide grants to public educational and municipal entities to conduct feasibility studies for the installation and operation of renewable energy projects on public property. The bill authorizes the commission to apply for funding from the Energy and Carbon Savings Trust Fund to fund the grant program.