

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/4/14

Report A

L.D. 1252  
(Filing No. H-650)

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 886, L.D. 1252, Bill, "An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar and Wind Energy"

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

**'An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar Energy'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 35-A MRS §10121-A is enacted to read:**

**§10121-A. Renewable Energy Rebate Program Fund**

**1. Fund established.** There is established the Renewable Energy Rebate Program Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," to be used by the trust solely for the purposes of providing rebates for cost-effective solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies as determined by the trust as part of a renewable energy technologies rebate program under section 10121, subsection 1, paragraph F. Any interest on funds in the fund must be credited to the fund. Funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the fund to be used for the purposes of this subsection.

**2. Assessment.** The commission shall assess transmission and distribution utilities in accordance with the following.

**A.** The commission shall assess transmission and distribution utilities to collect funds for the fund. The amount of all assessments by the commission under this subsection must result in total program expenditures by each transmission and distribution utility of .011¢ per kilowatt-hour except as provided for in paragraph B. All assessments made under this paragraph must be transferred to the fund.

**B.** Electricity customers receiving service at transmission voltage levels and subtransmission voltage levels are not eligible for rebates under this section, and those customers are not required to pay in rates any amount associated with the assessment under paragraph A. For the purposes of this paragraph, "transmission

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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1 voltage levels" means 44 kilovolts or more and "subtransmission voltage levels"  
2 means 34.5 kilovolts.

3 **3. Administration.** The trust shall administer rebates under this section in  
4 accordance with the following.

5 A. The trust shall by rule establish criteria for determining eligibility of a solar  
6 photovoltaic or solar thermal technology under this section.

7 B. A natural person is eligible to receive a rebate from funds collected pursuant to  
8 this section only if that person is a resident of this State. The trust shall establish  
9 proof of residency requirements by rule. Other entities, including, but not limited to,  
10 commercial, nonprofit or government entities, may receive a rebate under this section  
11 as long as the facility on which the eligible technology is installed is located in this  
12 State.

13 This section is repealed December 31, 2016.

14 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
15 allocations are made.

16 **EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST**

17 **Renewable Energy Rebate Fund N170**

18 Initiative: Provides an allocation of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 for rebates to  
19 persons or entities for the installation and use of cost-effective solar photovoltaic and  
20 solar thermal technology.

|    |  |                |                    |
|----|--|----------------|--------------------|
| 21 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>       | <b>2013-14</b> | <b>2014-15</b>     |
| 22 | All Other                                | \$0            | \$1,000,000        |
| 23 |  |                |                    |
| 24 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b> | <u>\$0</u>     | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| 25 |  |                |                    |

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy,  
28 Utilities and Technology. This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes the Renewable  
29 Energy Rebate Program Fund under the Efficiency Maine Trust. The trust is required to  
30 provide rebates for the purchase of certain renewable energy equipment until December  
31 31, 2016. The rebate program is funded by an assessment of .011¢ per kilowatt-hour on  
32 electricity bills. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 (See attached)



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1252

LR 1157(02)

## An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar and Wind Energy

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-650)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

|                                   | FY 2013-14 | FY 2014-15  | Projections<br>FY 2015-16 | Projections<br>FY 2016-17 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Appropriations/Allocations</b> |            |             |                           |                           |
| Other Special Revenue Funds       | \$0        | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000               | \$500,000                 |
| <b>Revenue</b>                    |            |             |                           |                           |
| Other Special Revenue Funds       | \$0        | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000               | \$500,000                 |
| <b>Transfers</b>                  |            |             |                           |                           |
| Other Special Revenue Funds       | \$0        | \$0         | \$0                       | \$0                       |

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill establishes the Renewable Energy Rebate program that will be administered by Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) for the purpose of providing rebates for cost-effective solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy systems. These rebates would be available to residents of the State and certain other entities with facilities in the State. This program will be funded from a new assessment of .011 cent per kilowatt hour collected by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on transmission and distribution utilities. The PUC will transfer an estimated \$1,000,000 in fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to EMT. This bill includes a \$1,000,000 allocation to EMT in fiscal year 2014-15 to distribute the rebates. The renewable energy rebate program will expire on December 31, 2016.