

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 825

H.P. 559

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

**An Act To Allow Consumer-owned Transmission and Distribution
Utilities To Apply for Efficiency Maine Grants**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HOBBS of Saco.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§4, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. A,
3 §15, is further amended to read:

4 A. During fiscal years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, not less than 50% of the trust
5 funds received during those years must be allocated for measures, investments and
6 arrangements that reduce electricity consumption or reduce greenhouse gas emissions
7 and lower energy costs at commercial or industrial facilities or that meet the
8 requirements of paragraph E-1, and 35% of the funds received by the trust fund
9 during those years must be used for investment in measures that lower residential
10 heating energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The measures that
11 lower residential heating demand must be fuel-neutral and may include, but are not
12 limited to, energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings and upgrades to
13 efficient heating systems that will reduce residential energy costs and greenhouse gas
14 emissions, as determined by the board. The trust shall transfer to the commission
15 15% of funds received by the trust fund during fiscal years 2013-14, 2014-15 and
16 2015-16, which the commission shall direct transmission and distribution utilities to
17 disburse to ratepayers in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the Maine
18 economy. Subject to the apportionment pursuant to this subsection, the trust shall
19 fund conservation programs that give priority to measures with the highest benefit-to-
20 cost ratio, as long as cost-effective collateral efficiency opportunities are not lost, and
21 that:

22 (1) Reliably reduce greenhouse gas production and heating energy costs by fossil
23 fuel combustion in the State at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per
24 unit of emissions; or

25 (2) Reliably reduce the consumption of electricity in the State at the lowest cost
26 in funds from the trust fund per kilowatt-hour saved.

27 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§4, ¶E-1** is enacted to read:

28 E-1. A consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility as defined in section
29 3201, subsection 6 may apply for funds under this section to support the development
30 of a distributed generation facility or combined heat and power facility, as long as:

31 (1) The facility will reduce electricity consumption or reduce greenhouse gas
32 emissions and lower energy costs for the ratepayers of the consumer-owned
33 transmission and distribution utility;

34 (2) The facility will be owned and operated by an entity other than the
35 consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility;

36 (3) The facility will have an electrical efficiency in excess of 40%, as determined
37 by the trust; and

38 (4) The owner of the facility provides performance guarantees to insulate
39 ratepayers from any risks associated with the construction of the facility.

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SUMMARY

This bill allows a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility to apply for funding from the Efficiency Maine Trust to support the development of a distributed generation facility or combined heat and power facility as long as the facility will reduce electricity consumption or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs, the facility will be owned and operated by an entity other than the consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility, the facility will meet certain electrical efficiency standards and the owner of the facility provides performance guarantees to insulate ratepayers from any risks associated with the construction of the facility.