

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1293

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H.P. 879

House of Representatives, April 9, 2015

### **An Act To Allow a Local Distributed Energy Pilot Program**

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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 MASTRACCIO of Sanford.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and  
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DeCHANT of  
Bath, GROHMAN of Biddeford, HYMANSON of York, NOON of Sanford, O'CONNOR of  
Berwick, RYKERSON of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3475** is enacted to read:

3 **§3475. Solar partnership pilot program**

4 The commission shall establish a pilot program to encourage municipal and private  
5 partnerships to develop solar array photovoltaic systems that provide public benefits.

6 **1. Program participation.** Participation in the pilot program is governed by the  
7 following:

8 A. A municipality and a developer of a solar array photovoltaic system wishing to  
9 participate in the program shall petition the commission;

10 B. The proposed solar array photovoltaic system, which may be owned by an entity  
11 other than the municipality, must be located entirely in the municipality that petitions  
12 the commission; and

13 C. The total generating capacity of all solar array photovoltaic systems participating  
14 in the pilot program may not exceed 15 megawatts.

15 **2. Program elements.** Under the pilot program, notwithstanding any other  
16 provision of this Title, but in accordance with rules adopted by the commission:

17 A. Up to 2.5 megawatts of energy produced by the solar array photovoltaic system  
18 may be supplied under a net energy billing arrangement, as defined in section  
19 3209-A, to meet the energy requirements of the municipality and any public schools  
20 located in the municipality in which the solar array photovoltaic system is located;  
21 and

22 B. Costs to a transmission and distribution utility directly resulting from the pilot  
23 program are just and reasonable costs for ratemaking purposes.

24 **3. Rules.** The commission shall adopt rules governing the pilot program. Rules  
25 adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter  
26 375, subchapter 2-A.

27 **4. Report.** As part of its annual report submitted pursuant to section 120, the  
28 commission shall include a summary of actions taken under this section and participation  
29 in the pilot program and any recommendations regarding modifying or expanding the  
30 pilot program.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill establishes a pilot program to encourage municipal and private partnerships  
33 to develop solar array photovoltaic systems that provide public benefits. The total  
34 generating capacity of all solar array photovoltaic systems participating in the pilot  
35 program may not exceed 15 megawatts. Under the pilot program, up to 2.5 megawatts of  
36 energy produced by the solar array photovoltaic system may be supplied under a net  
37 energy billing arrangement to meet the energy requirements of the municipality and any

1 public schools located in the municipality in which the solar array photovoltaic system is  
2 located. All costs to a transmission and distribution utility directly resulting from the  
3 pilot program are just and reasonable costs for ratemaking purposes.