

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1382

Date: 2/23/16

(Filing No. S-364)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “**A**” to S.P. 511, L.D. 1382, Bill, “An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers”

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

Sec. 1. PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. A, §27, sub-§3 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Fiscal years 2016-17 to 2019-20. Beginning with fiscal year 2016-17 and continuing through fiscal year 2019-20, the Public Utilities Commission shall require the payment of 50% of settlement funds received by a transmission and distribution utility to the Efficiency Maine Trust to be used by the trust, as determined by the Efficiency Maine Trust Board, for measures, investments, loans, arrangements and technical assistance to assist low-income residential electric utility customers in making energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce both overall residential energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The commission shall require the payment of 50% of settlement funds to be used to reduce the transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the economy of the State.

Sec. 2. PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. A, §27, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. After fiscal year 2019-20. After fiscal year 2019-20, the Public Utilities Commission shall require the remaining settlement funds to be used to reduce a transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the economy of the State.'

SUMMARY

This is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill. This amendment amends Public Law 2013, chapter 369 to require the Public Utilities Commission to distribute 50% of funds received by transmission and distribution utilities pursuant to litigation with the United States Department of Energy concerning decommissioning

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R O F S

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 511, L.D. 1382

1 costs related to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to the Efficiency Maine Trust
2 from fiscal year 2016-17 to fiscal year 2019-20. The amendment requires that settlement
3 funds received by the trust be used for measures, investments, loans, arrangements and
4 technical assistance to assist low-income residential electric utility customers with energy
5 efficiency improvements to residential buildings and upgrades to efficient heating
6 systems that will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The
7 amendment also specifies that the other 50% of the settlement funds must be used to
8 reduce a transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum
9 benefit to the economy of the State. Lastly, the amendment specifies that after fiscal year
10 2019-20 the commission shall require the remaining funds to be used to reduce a
11 transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to
12 the economy of the State.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1382

LR 1118(02)

An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (S-364)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium revenue increase - Efficiency Maine Trust

Minor cost increase - Efficiency Maine Trust

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Under current law, starting in fiscal year 2016-17, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must ensure that transmission and distribution utilities receiving settlement funds from litigation related to the decommissioning costs of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company are to be distributed in a manner that provides maximum benefit to the economy. Under this bill, from fiscal year 2016-17 through fiscal year 2019-20, 50% of these settlement funds would be directed to the Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) to assist low-income residential electric utility customers in making certain energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. The remaining 50% of settlement funds would be used to reduce the utility rates of transmission and distribution utilities in a manner providing maximum benefit to the economy, with the percentage rising to 100% of settlement funds in fiscal year 2020-21 and in every subsequent fiscal year. The PUC has indicated that the amount of settlement funds, or whether there will be any settlement funds, in fiscal year 2016-17 and beyond cannot currently be determined.

Any additional costs to the EMT are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.