

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1382

S.P. 511

In Senate, April 30, 2015

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### An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Senators: HILL of York, MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives:  
EVANGELOS of Friendship, McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 316, §3, is  
3 amended to read:

4 A. Receive funds collected by all transmission and distribution utilities in the State  
5 at a rate set by the commission in periodic rate cases and direct all settlement funds  
6 received after July 1, 2016 by any transmission and distribution utility pursuant to a  
7 damage award received pursuant to litigation with the United States Department of  
8 Energy concerning decommissioning costs related to Maine Yankee Atomic Power  
9 Company to be forwarded to the commission to be used for programs under this  
10 subsection; and

11 **Sec. 2. PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. A, §27, sub-§2** is amended to read:

12 **2. In fiscal year 2015-16.** In fiscal year 2015-16, the Public Utilities Commission  
13 shall require the payment of a total of \$2,000,000 of the settlement funds received by  
14 transmission and distribution utilities to the Efficiency Maine Trust to be used by the trust  
15 for electric efficiency and conservation programs pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10110 in  
16 accordance with the trust's triennial plan. The proportional share of the \$2,000,000  
17 provided from each transmission and distribution utility's settlement funds must be the  
18 same as that transmission and distribution utility's proportional share of the total retail  
19 kilowatt hours delivered in this State by all the transmission and distribution utilities  
20 receiving settlement funds.

21 The commission shall ~~require the~~ direct that all remaining funds to be used to ~~reduce the~~  
22 ~~transmission and distribution utility's rates in a manner that provides maximum benefit to~~  
23 ~~the economy of the State~~ for investments in measures that reduce residential heating costs  
24 for low-income electricity customers.

25 **Sec. 3. PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. A, §27, sub-§3** is repealed.

## 26 SUMMARY

27 This bill amends the statutes regarding electric industry restructuring and Public Law  
28 2013, chapter 369 to allocate Maine Yankee settlement funds to assist low-income  
29 electricity ratepayers in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section  
30 3214, subsection 2 by directing that transmission and distribution utilities are to pay to  
31 the Public Utilities Commission all funds received and that certain remaining funds be  
32 used for investments in measures that reduce residential heating costs for low-income  
33 electricity customers.