

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 754

H.P. 559

House of Representatives, February 12, 2019

**An Act To Ensure the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust
Fund Continues To Promote Energy Efficiency and Benefit Maine
Ratepayers**

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 WADSWORTH of Hiram.
Cosponsored by Senator FOLEY of York and
Representatives: CAIAZZO of Scarborough, STANLEY of Medway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§3-B** is enacted to read:

3 **3-B. Ceiling on energy efficiency spending.** There is established a ceiling on
4 energy efficiency spending from the trust fund equal to \$5 per carbon dioxide allowance.
5 Only the first \$5 of revenue received by the trust from each carbon dioxide allowance
6 sold may be expended in accordance with subsection 4.

7 A. Beginning with fiscal year 2020-21:

8 (1) Revenue in excess of \$5 per carbon dioxide allowance received by the trust
9 from the sale of carbon dioxide allowances, up to an aggregate limit of
10 \$3,000,000 per year, must be transferred to the commission for use by the
11 commission for the benefit of affected customers in accordance with subsection
12 3-A; and

13 (2) Revenue received by the trust in excess of the amount transferred in
14 accordance with subparagraph (1) must be transferred to the commission for
15 distribution to Maine-based energy-intensive businesses, other than affected
16 customers, up to an additional \$3,000,000 annually.

17 B. Any funds received by the trust in excess of a value of \$5 per carbon dioxide
18 allowance plus the amounts transferred to affected customers pursuant to paragraph
19 A, subparagraph (1) or businesses pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraph (2) must be
20 transferred to the commission for distribution to electric ratepayers in a manner
21 designed to provide the greatest benefit to the State's economy as determined by the
22 commission.

23 For purposes of this subsection, "affected customer" has the same meaning as in
24 subsection 3-A. The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules
25 adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
26 375, subchapter 2-A.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill reestablishes a ceiling that was repealed in 2013 on energy efficiency
29 spending from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund; provides for transfers
30 from the trust fund to Maine-based energy-intensive businesses, in addition to transfers to
31 affected customers; requires that funds over a certain amount be distributed to ratepayers;
32 and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt implementing rules.