

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 815

S.P. 184

In Senate, March 5, 2021

An Act To Support School Decarbonization

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10123**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 347, §2, is further amended
3 to read:

4 **§10123. School ~~energy savings~~ decarbonization program**

5 To the extent funds are available, the trust shall develop a program to provide ~~energy~~
6 ~~savings improvements to~~ technical and financial support to help kindergarten to grade 12
7 schools, including charter schools and private schools, to become carbon neutral. Under
8 this program, the trust may:

9 **1. ~~Energy audits~~ Professional services.** ~~Provide incentives and technical support for~~
10 ~~an energy audit of~~ Facilitate access to professional services, including but not limited to
11 energy audits, technical support, financing and legal services, to assist in the planning,
12 design or procurement of construction projects, solar power purchases or equipment that
13 will help a school facility to become carbon neutral. The trust may provide financial
14 incentives for these services;

15 **2. Energy measures.** Provide financial assistance for cost-effective energy measures
16 identified in an energy audit as ~~likely to achieve total savings within 10 years that are~~
17 greater than the total costs of the measures or the plans, designs or procurements of a school
18 facility. Eligibility for energy measures qualifying for financial assistance under this
19 section must be determined by the trust; and

20 **3. School payments.** Accept payments from schools, including, but not limited to,
21 payments equal to or less than the value on monthly energy bills of the energy savings as a
22 result of the energy measures. These payments may include costs to develop and oversee
23 the project, administer the program and service loans.

24 The trust, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall identify and provide
25 incentives for cost-effective electric and natural gas conservation projects in school
26 construction projects designated by the State Board of Education for funding pursuant to
27 rules adopted under Title 20-A, section 15905.

28 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10127**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 347, §3 and reallocated by
29 RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is repealed.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 Current law requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to develop and administer a school
32 energy savings program. This bill changes the program to a school decarbonization
33 program and requires the trust to provide technical and financial support to help
34 kindergarten to grade 12 schools become carbon neutral. The bill also repeals the school
35 solar energy program administered by the trust.