

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 989

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S.P. 321

In Senate, March 10, 2021

### **An Act Regarding the Procurement of Renewable Natural Gas by Gas Utilities**

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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 SANBORN of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 707, §5, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Cost of gas; related costs.** Subject to the approval of the commission, each gas  
5 utility shall charge its customers a cost-of-gas adjustment rate that includes reasonable  
6 costs, including those associated with the procurement of renewable natural gas, for the gas  
7 that it supplies to its firm sales customers who receive uninterrupted service on a year-  
8 round basis. The cost of gas includes the cost of the gas purchased by the company for use  
9 in the State and may include costs directly related to the gas purchased and may include all  
10 or a portion of the cost of facilities used to produce and store gas, pursuant to rules adopted  
11 by the commission under this section.

12 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

13 **8. Renewable natural gas.** Reasonable costs for gas include costs associated with the  
14 procurement of renewable natural gas. The commission shall allow a gas utility to use  
15 renewable natural gas for not more than 2% of the natural gas it supplies to its customers  
16 starting in 2022 and shall allow a gas utility to use an additional 2% annually thereafter and  
17 allow a gas utility to include the costs of that renewable natural gas in its cost-of-gas  
18 adjustment rate under subsection 1.

19 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

20 **9. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
21 "renewable natural gas" means natural gas resulting from the decomposition of organic  
22 matter.

## 23 SUMMARY

24 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to allow a gas utility to use renewable  
25 natural gas for no more than 2% of the natural gas it supplies to its customers starting in  
26 2022 and to allow a gas utility to use an additional 2% annually thereafter. A gas utility  
27 also may include the costs of that renewable natural gas in its cost-of-gas adjustment rate.