

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

S.K.
RQS.

Date: 2/29/24

(Filing No. S-553)

MAJORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 257, L.D. 589, "An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers"

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3148 is enacted to read:

§3148. Periodic review of grid-enhancing technology

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Grid-enhancing technology" means any hardware or software technology that enables enhanced or more efficient flow of electricity across the existing electric transmission and distribution system. "Grid-enhancing technology" does not include generation assets or energy storage.

B. "Large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility" has the same meaning as in section 3201, subsection 12.

2. Periodic review. Beginning January 15, 2025, and every 5 years thereafter, the commission shall conduct a review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review of available grid-enhancing technology that could be implemented by a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report describing the grid-enhancing technology identified in the review. The commission may file information or the report for use in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding required pursuant to section 3147, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3802, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Beneficial load. "Beneficial load" means:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

A. An increase in electric load that is consistent with the principles of beneficial electrification; or

B. The excess electrical capacity within the grid, the use of which is consistent with beneficial electrification and, when feasible, avoids the need for significant investment in or expenditures for additional grid infrastructure.

"Beneficial load" includes electric load that is used to reduce peak demand or shift the demand to lower cost time periods.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 328, §1, is amended to read:

2. Plan for promoting beneficial electrification for end uses of energy. The trust shall develop a 3-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy as part of the trust's triennial plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 4 and provide annual updates to the plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 6. ~~In developing its beneficial electrification plan for end uses, the trust shall consult with relevant departments and agencies.~~

A. In developing its beneficial electrification plan for end uses that promotes beneficial electrification, the trust shall:

- (1) Consult with relevant departments and agencies;
- (2) Consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load; and
- (3) Integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the office as appropriate.

B. In developing its beneficial electrification plan under this subsection, the trust shall consider:

- (1) Incorporating the assumptions and advancing the findings and recommendations of the office in its "Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040" study launched in August 2023, part of the comprehensive state energy plan required by Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C;
- (2) Whether, in order to enable more efficient generation and transmission planning, a certain type or location of electric load is beneficial load;
- (3) Integrating with and informing the commission's consideration of grid planning priorities pursuant to section 3147; and
- (4) Seeking input from transmission and distribution utilities and relevant agencies and organizations in the State.

Sec. 4. Efficiency Maine Trust beneficial electrification update. By February 1, 2025, the trust shall provide a written update on its beneficial electrification planning as well as any recommendations, which may include proposed legislation, to improve its planning activities or to advance beneficial electrification, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3802, subsection 1, and siting of beneficial load, as defined in Title 35-A, section 3802, subsection 1-A, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to beneficial electrification or the trust's recommendations to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

ROS
2

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted consulting services.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$102,100
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$102,100

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment does the following.

1. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review of available grid-enhancing technology that may be implemented by large investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report. The report may be used by the commission in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding.

2. It defines "beneficial load" for the purposes of the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act.

3. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, as a part of its development of a 3-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy, to consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load and integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the Governor's Energy Office as appropriate.

4. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide, by February 1, 2025, a written update on its beneficial electrification planning as well as any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 589

LR 1954(02)

An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-553)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$102,100	\$0	\$0
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$102,100	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has indicated that additional resources are required to complete the initial review required by this bill. The bill includes a one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$102,100 in fiscal year 2024-25 for contract consulting services and other associated costs. Since the PUC is funded by assessments on transmission and distribution utilities set to produce sufficient revenue for any expenditures needed to operate, the assessments will be increased to fund the new allocations.

Any additional costs to the Efficiency Maine Trust to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.