

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 815

H.P. 504

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

**An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and
Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents**

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of
Bowdoinham, JAUCH of Topsham, MATHIESON of Kittery, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of
Portland, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶CC**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 234, §16,
3 is further amended to read:

4 CC. Encourage and provide incentives to individuals and entities that conserve energy;
5 support and participate, with resources derived from sources except the conservation
6 program fund under Title 35-A, section 10110, subsection 7, in markets that reward
7 energy conservation and use the proceeds from this participation to support affordable
8 housing programs under its jurisdiction; and create and administer programs that
9 encourage individuals and entities to conserve energy.

10 In accordance with Title 35-A, section 10118-A, the Maine State Housing Authority
11 shall participate in the education program and the provision of outreach services to
12 residents of manufactured housing in the State to increase awareness of the energy
13 efficiency programs administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Maine State
14 Housing Authority for which the residents may be eligible.

15 In accordance with Title 35-A, section 10130, the Maine State Housing Authority shall
16 participate in the development and implementation of the program to assist low and
17 moderate-income homeowners and renters, including residents of manufactured
18 housing, to purchase and install energy efficiency measures;

19 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10118-A** is enacted to read:

20 **§10118-A. Manufactured housing education program**

21 In coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority established in Title 30-A,
22 section 4722, the trust shall develop an education program and provide outreach services
23 to residents of manufactured housing in the State to increase awareness of the energy
24 efficiency programs administered by the trust and the Maine State Housing Authority for
25 which the residents may be eligible. The education program materials must include a
26 description of each energy efficiency program for which a manufactured housing resident
27 may qualify and the application process for that energy efficiency program. The education
28 program materials must also identify any organizations that may assist with the energy
29 efficiency program application process. For the purposes of this section, "manufactured
30 housing" has the same meaning as in Title 10, section 9002, subsection 7.

31 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §10130** is enacted to read:

32 **§10130. Residential energy efficiency program**

33 **1. Program.** In coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority established in
34 Title 30-A, section 4722, and to the extent that funds are available, the trust shall establish
35 and implement a program to assist low and moderate-income homeowners and renters,
36 including residents of manufactured housing, to purchase and install energy efficiency
37 measures in accordance with this subsection. Under this program, the trust shall:

38 A. Determine and provide appropriate grants or loans to assist persons who qualify in
39 accordance with paragraph B to purchase and install high-efficiency heat pump
40 systems and weatherization products and services;

41 B. Establish standards for determining who qualifies under the program and prioritize
42 for assistance homeowners and renters the trust determines to have the highest energy

1 burdens, live in rural or underserved areas or receive benefits under state or federal
2 low-income assistance programs; and

3 C. Provide homeowners and renters who may qualify for the program under paragraph
4 B with education regarding program eligibility and assistance with program utilization.

5 **2. Report.** The trust shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
6 having jurisdiction over energy matters reports on the status of the program as follows: the
7 first report must be submitted no later than July 1, 2024, the 2nd report no later than July
8 1, 2025 and the 3rd report no later than July 1, 2026.

9 For the purposes of this section, "manufactured housing" has the same meaning as in
10 Title 10, section 9002, subsection 7.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Maine State Housing Authority
13 to develop an education program and conduct outreach to residents of manufactured
14 housing, which includes mobile homes, to increase awareness of the energy efficiency
15 programs administered by each entity.

16 This bill requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, in coordination with the Maine State
17 Housing Authority, to develop a program to provide grants or loans to assist persons who
18 qualify to purchase and install high-efficiency heat pump systems and weatherization
19 products and services. The program must prioritize homeowners and renters with the
20 highest energy burdens, who live in rural or underserved areas and who receive benefits
21 under state or federal low-income assistance programs. The trust must provide education
22 regarding program eligibility and assistance with program navigation to individuals who
23 may qualify for the program. The trust must provide reports to the joint standing committee
24 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the status of the
25 program.