

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1606

S.P. 638

In Senate, April 11, 2023

An Act to Finance Clean Energy and Infrastructure in Maine

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 DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10129, sub-§4, ¶C** is enacted to read:

3 C. The accelerator shall establish a dedicated grant program to finance energy audits
4 and feasibility studies for renewable energy or energy efficiency retrofit projects in
5 public elementary and secondary schools. The program must fully reimburse for audits
6 of public elementary and secondary schools that are conducted by a qualified
7 professional. For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified professional" has the same
8 meaning as in 26 United States Code, Section 179D(f)(7)(B), as in effect on January 1,
9 2023. The trust shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant
10 to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
11 subchapter 2-A.

12 **Sec. 2. Loan program pilot project.** The Efficiency Maine Trust shall establish
13 a pilot project to provide bridge funding for up to 2 years, in the form of zero-interest loans,
14 for public elementary and secondary schools to finance the upfront costs of distributed
15 generation solar or energy efficiency retrofit projects. The pilot project must give
16 preference to applicants that commit to maximizing the tax incentives for labor standards,
17 such as meeting applicable prevailing wage and apprenticeship utilization requirements, in
18 the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Public Law 117-169. The trust shall adopt
19 rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical
20 rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill directs the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to establish a
23 dedicated grant program to finance energy audits and feasibility studies for renewable
24 energy or energy efficiency retrofit projects in public elementary and secondary schools.
25 It also directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a pilot project to provide bridge
26 funding for up to 2 years, in the form of zero-interest loans, for public elementary and
27 secondary schools to finance the upfront costs of distributed generation solar or energy
28 efficiency retrofit projects.