

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/13/26

(Filing No. S-544)

MAJORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 676, L.D. 1730, "An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Make Small Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis'

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

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3475 is enacted to read:

§3475. Plug-in photovoltaic and battery systems

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

A. "Eligible system" means a plug-in photovoltaic system or plug-in battery system with an export capacity of 1,200 watts or less that is:

(1) Listed or certified in accordance with UL 3700, the Outline of Investigation for Interactive Plug-in Photovoltaic Equipment and Systems, and any other applicable standards developed by UL LLC, formerly known as Underwriters Laboratories, or the National Electrical Safety Code specific to plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems;

(2) Listed or certified in accordance with a standard comparable to UL 3700 from a nationally recognized testing laboratory; or

(3) Configured in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code that is adopted by rule by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

B. "Interconnection agreement" means an agreement between a person and a transmission and distribution utility governing the connection of an interconnecting

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1 generating facility to the transmission and distribution utility's system and the ongoing
2 operation of the interconnecting generating facility after it is connected to the system.
- 3 C. "Plug-in battery system" means an alternating current-coupled energy storage device
4 that:
- 5 (1) Connects to a retail electricity customer's electrical system wiring through a
6 standard electrical outlet;
- 7 (2) Is capable of charging from or discharging to the electrical system to which it
8 is connected independently of any photovoltaic system; and
- 9 (3) Is intended to offset on-site electricity consumption by the retail electricity
10 customer, perform energy arbitrage or participate in grid-support operations.
- 11 D. "Plug-in photovoltaic system" means a photovoltaic generation device that:
- 12 (1) Connects to a retail customer's electrical system wiring through a standard
13 electrical outlet in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of
14 interconnected electric power sources established in the National Electrical Code
15 that is adopted by rule by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board,
16 established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A;
- 17 (2) Is intended primarily to offset part of the retail electricity customer's electricity
18 consumption; and
- 19 (3) Uses inverters that are configured to shut off after 0.2 seconds if power is
20 disrupted.
- 21 2. Authorization. Subject to the requirements of this section, a retail electricity
22 customer may install and operate one or more eligible systems at the customer's service
23 address for the purpose of offsetting on-site electricity consumption.
- 24 3. Capacity limitations. A retail electricity customer may install and operate one or
25 more eligible systems with a combined inverter output of up to 420 watts, measured in
26 alternating current, per service address. A retail electricity customer may install and operate
27 plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems with combined inverter output
28 exceeding 420 watts, but no more than 1,200 watts, per service address, as long as each
29 system is installed by an electrician licensed in the State and uses a dedicated circuit with
30 a single outlet and the customer complies with the notification requirement in subsection
31 5.
- 32 4. Net energy billing; prohibition. An eligible system installed and operated in
33 accordance with the requirements of this section may not be used for net energy billing
34 pursuant to sections 3209-A and 3209-B.
- 35 5. Notification for output exceeding 420 watts. A retail electricity customer that
36 installs an eligible system in accordance with subsection 3 shall provide a notification to
37 the transmission and distribution utility in whose service territory the eligible system is
38 installed in a form prescribed by the commission within 30 days of installation. The
39 notification must include, but is not limited to, the retail customer's service address, the
40 inverter capacity of the eligible system and a statement that the retail electricity customer
41 is in compliance with the requirements of this section. A transmission and distribution
42 utility may not deny the installation of an eligible system that complies with the
43 requirements of this section.

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6. Prohibitions. A transmission and distribution utility may not require a retail electricity customer that installs or operates an eligible system in accordance with the requirements of this section to:

A. Obtain approval from the transmission and distribution utility prior to installation or operation;

B. Submit an interconnection application, execute an interconnection agreement or undergo an interconnection study in connection with the eligible system;

C. Pay any fee or charge to the transmission and distribution utility related to the eligible system; or

D. Install additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the eligible system.

7. Liability. A transmission and distribution utility is not liable for any damage or injury caused by the installation or operation of an eligible system by a retail electricity customer in accordance with this section.

8. Structural and code compliance; installation or removal. A retail electricity customer that installs or operates an eligible system on or in a structure the customer does not own shall ensure that the installation or operation does not compromise the integrity of the structure or violate any state or local building, fire or zoning codes. Upon removal of an eligible system from a structure the customer does not own, the customer shall restore the structure to its condition prior to the installation.'

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, and changes the title. The amendment excepts from certain requirements the installation and operation of one or more eligible plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems by retail electricity customers for offsetting on-site electricity consumption. The amendment establishes requirements for plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems to qualify for the exception, including safety standards and capacity limits, and prohibits the use of eligible systems for net energy billing. The amendment also establishes requirements for the retail customer's installation and removal of such systems on or in a structure the retail customer does not own.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 03/03/26 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1730

LR 1790(02)

An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-544)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Public Utilities Commission from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.