

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/24/24

(Filing No. S584)

MAJORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 858, L.D. 2140, "An Act to Reduce Household Energy Costs in Response to Federal Cuts"

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

'Resolve, to Establish a Demand Response Program to Lower Electric Bills and Improve Grid Reliability'

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

Sec. 1. Demand response program; established. Resolved: That the Efficiency Maine Trust, referred to in this resolve as "the trust," currently administering behind-the-meter demand management programs in the State, shall establish the demand response program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The trust shall administer the program through the end of fiscal year 2027-28. The trust may extend the program beyond that date, in its discretion, if such an extension is proposed and approved in the trust's next triennial plan pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4.

Sec. 2. Savings and reliability through reduction of peak demand. Resolved: That, as a part of the program, the trust shall develop an outreach and education campaign to increase participation in the State's transmission and distribution utilities opt-in time-of-use rates to encourage shifting electricity consumption to off-peak periods. The trust may not require an electricity customer to participate in the program. The program must be designed to focus on savings opportunities most appropriate for the State's electrical loads, grid planning and climate.

Sec. 3. Accessibility. Resolved: That the program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, as determined by the trust, and the trust shall prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 4. Collaboration. Resolved: That the trust shall collaborate with the State's transmission and distribution utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Energy Resources, as well as the public, and public interest organizations, including, but not limited to, community action agencies, by seeking input on the design of the program. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide assistance in delivering information about the program to potential program participants. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide customer data and other information to the trust necessary for program assessment and enhancing participation in the program.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the trust shall assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment. The trust shall include in the report any challenges it encountered in administering the program and any opportunities the trust identifies for improving and expanding efforts to shift electricity consumption to off-peak periods and to help lower electricity bills and improve grid reliability.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. It requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish the demand response program to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, and the trust is required to prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers. The trust must assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2140

LR 2931(02)

An Act to Reduce Household Energy Costs in Response to Federal Cuts

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-584)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Efficiency Maine Trust
Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the various agencies impacted by the provisions of this bill are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.