

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 3, 2024 to May 10, 2024

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 9, 2024

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2024

**CHAPTER 534
H.P. 1330 - L.D. 2067
An Act to Continue the
Arrearage Management
Program for Low-income
Residential Electricity
Customers**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the current laws governing arrearage management programs are repealed September 30, 2024; and

Whereas, this legislation proposes to continue transmission and distribution utilities' arrearage management programs for low-income residential customers; and

Whereas, to prevent the repeal of current laws governing arrearage management programs, this legislation must take effect immediately; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

No later than January 28, ~~2024~~ 2028, the commission shall prepare a report assessing the effectiveness of arrearage management programs from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027, including the number of participants enrolled in the programs, the number of participants completing the programs, the number of participants who have failed to complete the programs, ~~the payment patterns of participating customers after completing the programs, the dollar amount of arrears forgiven, a comparison of outcomes for those participating in the programs and those not participating,~~ the impact on any participating transmission and distribution utility's bad debt as a result of the programs, the costs and benefits to all ratepayers associated with the programs and recommendations for ways in which the programs might be improved or continued for the benefit of all ratepayers. In preparing its report, the commission shall hold at least one formal stakeholder meeting involving affected parties, including the Office of the Public Advocate and the participating transmission and distribution utilities. Parties must also be provided

an opportunity to submit written comments to the commission regarding the performance of the programs.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 4th blocked paragraph to read:

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters may report out a bill relating to the commission report to the Second Regular Session of the ~~134th~~ 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 5th blocked paragraph to read:

This subsection is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §10110, sub-§2, ¶L, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

This paragraph is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 14, 2024.

**CHAPTER 535
S.P. 61 - L.D. 122**

**An Act to Update the Electric
Vehicle Rebate Program and to
Establish a Pilot Program to
Support the Uptake of Medium
Duty and Heavy Duty
Zero-emission Vehicles**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10126, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2023, c. 140, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Rebate Incentive program established; eligibility. In accordance with the provisions of this section, the trust shall establish and administer a program that provides ~~rebates~~ incentives for the purchase or lease of electric vehicles. A person may apply for and, as resources within the fund allow, receive ~~a rebate~~ an incentive for an electric vehicle, subject to eligibility requirements established by the trust. Eligibility criteria for the vehicle must include that the vehicle is: a battery electric vehicle or a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle; the vehicle is purchased, or leased for a term of 36 months or more, from its original equipment manufacturer or an authorized licensee of the original equipment manufacturer or a licensed automobile dealer for a term of 36