

## LD 886 -- An Act to Secure Maine's Energy Future

Sponsor: Speaker Hannah Pingree

1. The "Efficiency Maine Trust"
  - Change the name of the existing RGGI Trust (established in 35-A, §10008) to the "Efficiency Maine Trust"
  - Expand the purpose of the Trust to:
    - provide uniform, integrated planning, program design and administration of all energy efficiency programs in Maine
    - reduce energy costs for Maine consumers and improve security of the state and local economies
    - provide one-stop shopping for Maine energy consumers
  - Make the trust a non-profit corporation, that is an independent fiscal agent, outside of state government, with oversight from the PUC
  - Establish a governing Board of Trustees comprising representatives of energy customer classes, government agencies, and independent individuals
    - No members with financial interest in selling energy or related equipment or services
  - Duty to create a comprehensive Triennial Plan that coordinates and integrates the planning and delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency and weatherization from all sources of funding, to be approved by the PUC
  - Duty to propose objective, quantifiable, measures of performance, to be approved by the PUC
  - Board will hire a qualified Executive Director who will hire a small staff (projected between 8-15)
  - Programs generally awarded through competitive solicitations and will be delivered by businesses, state agencies, utilities, CAPs, other non-profit organizations, or trade associations, having the best proposals
  - Trust accountable to PUC and Legislature for meeting performance measures, meeting state energy policy objectives and targets, and conforming with existing statutory requirements.
2. Transfer administration of electric efficiency programs to the Efficiency Maine Trust.
  - Keep the objectives, criteria, process provisions of 35-A MRSA 3211-A
  - But in most places, change the word "commission" to "trust",
    - transfer to the Trust the tasks and funds used to run programs for the acquisition of energy efficiency resources or for training or education directly related to the acquisition of energy efficiency
  - Retain the PUC's authority to receive or solicit funds to implement complementary energy programs (e.g., for renewable energy, for general energy education, to fund interagency initiatives)
3. Transfer administration of natural gas efficiency programs to the Efficiency Maine Trust

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- Retain the objectives, criteria, process provisions of 35-A MRSA 4711
  - But transfer the job of developing and approving program plans and measures of performance from the PUC to the Trust
4. Establish the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund
- Administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust
  - Fund to be used for cost-effective energy efficiency and weatherization programs to reduce heating bills and energy consumption for all customer classes that use fuels for heating and cooling (who do not already receive weatherization through Low Income programs)
  - Programs will help residential and business consumers pay for
    - (1) an initial building assessment or audit by certified professionals;
    - (2) the purchase of high-efficiency new space heating or water heating equipment;
    - (3) weatherization improvements to the building envelope;
    - (4) installation of pre-certified efficient lighting systems and electrical equipment;
    - (5) a post-installation assessment and report
  - Programs will help Maine businesses pay for
    - (1) training or certification of energy auditors, insulation installers, mechanical heating system installers and maintenance technicians, and building energy inspectors
    - (2) loans for the purchase or lease of commercial equipment that is uniquely used in the installation and maintenance of high efficiency heating mechanical systems or building envelope efficiency measures
  - Programs will be funded through:
    - (1) federal Recovery Act funds
    - (2) 2.5 cent/gallon System Benefit Charge assessed at the terminal
    - (3) a Revenue Bond authorization of \$50 million over 5 years
5. Coordinate and integrate federally funded weatherization programs for Low Income customers through the Trust's "Triennial Plan"

The Speaker's bill would have the following benefits:

1. Reduce soaring energy costs for Maine homes and businesses
  - Save more than \$1 billion in avoided heating bills, which will stay in the Maine economy instead of importing expensive heating fuels
  - Save an average participant 20-30% on their annual heating bill (at least \$500 if oil costs \$3/gallon)
2. Add hundreds of sustainable, private sector jobs that will last long after federal Stimulus funds are gone. Every annual funding of \$1 million for energy efficiency generates about direct 10 jobs and as much as 24 jobs when indirect effects are factored in.
3. Help new businesses get a foothold in Maine's growing green industry and help existing businesses, including Maine oil dealers, diversify their services and stabilize their businesses.
4. Bring efficient administration and consistent, uniform program design to Maine's energy programs while helping customers with simpler, more robust assistance

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