



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1073

LR 1084(01)

An Act To Lower Energy Costs and Increase Access to Solar Energy for Agricultural Businesses

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Saviello of Franklin

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill establishes the Solar Energy Agricultural Rebate Fund within Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) to provide rebates to agricultural businesses for cost-effective solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies. The fund is funded through assessments by the Public Utilities Commission on transmission and distribution utilities. The amount of all assessments must result in total program expenditures by each transmission and distribution utility of 0.005 cents per kilo-watt hour. New Other Special Revenue Funds revenue of \$375,000 in fiscal year 2015-16, \$500,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 will be transferred to the EMT. The bill repeals these activities on December 31, 2017. Any additional costs to the EMT to implement this legislation are expected to be minor.