LD 1730 – CONCEPT DRAFT

PROPOSED SPONSOR AMENDMENT
Offered by Senator Grohoski
December 30, 2025

NEW TITLE: An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis

Amend the bill by striking everything after the title and replacing with the following:

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶P is amended to read:

P. Ensure, through the adoption of necessary amendments, that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code expressly allows the installation and use of acceptable refrigeration or air conditioning products or equipment as defined in section 9724, subsection 7; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶Q is amended to read:

Q. No later than December 1, 2023, adopt the standards set forth in the Canadian Standards Association Standard for Residential Mechanical Ventilation Systems, CAN/CSA-F326-M91, as an alternative path for compliance with the ASHRAE Standard 62.2 Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings under the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. For purposes of this paragraph, "ASHRAE" has the same meaning as in section 1413, subsection 1~~.~~; and

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶R is enacted to read:

R. Ensure, through the adoption of necessary amendments, that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code requires that a building with four or more residential dwelling units on which construction commences after December 1, 2026 include at least one outdoor individual branch circuit per unit.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3475 is enacted to read:

§3475. Plug-in photovoltaic and battery systems

1. Definitions. As used in this chapter, 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 that:

(1) Complies with the National Electrical Code Article 705 for interconnection, breaker sizing and overcurrent protection;

(2) Utilizes inverters listed under Underwriters Laboratories Subject 1741 or an equivalent standard ensuring safe operation;

(3) Includes a device or feature that prevents energizing the electrical system to which it is connected during a power outage;

(4) If photovoltaic modules are installed on or in a structure, comply with National Electrical Code Article 690.12 regarding rapid shutdown; and

(5) Complies with any additional standards or requirements established by the Electricians Examining Board.

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

transmission and distribution utility's system and the ongoing operation of the interconnecting generating facility after it is connected to the system.

C. "Plug-in battery system" means an AC-coupled energy storage device that:

(1) Connects to the retail customer's electrical system wiring through a standard branch-circuit outlet;

(2) Is capable of charging from or discharging to the electrical system to which it is connected independently of any photovoltaic system; and

(3) Is intended to offset on-site electricity consumption, perform energy arbitrage or participate in grid-support operations.

D. "Plug-in photovoltaic system" means a photovoltaic generation device that:

(1) Connects to the retail customer's electrical system wiring through a standard electrical outlet;

(2) Is intended primarily to offset part of the retail electricity customer's electricity consumption; and

(3) Utilizes inverters listed under Underwriters' Laboratories Subject 1741 or an equivalent standard ensuring safe operation.

E. "Individual branch circuit" means a branch circuit that supplies only one utilization equipment.

2. Authorization. Subject to the requirements of this section, a retail electricity customer may install and operate one or more eligible systems at the customer's service address for the purpose of offsetting on-site electricity consumption.

3. Capacity limitations. Except as provided in paragraph A, a retail electricity customer may install and operate one or more eligible systems with combined inverter output of up to 1,200 watts, measured in alternating current, per service address as long as the system or systems are configured for zero export to the utility grid.

A. A retail electricity customer may install and operate plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems with combined inverter output exceeding 1,200 watts measured in alternating current, per phase, provided that the systems incorporate certified zero-export controls that prevent export to the utility grid beyond on-site consumption and the customer complies with the notification requirement in subsection 5.

4. Net energy billing; prohibition. An eligible system installed and operated in accordance with the requirements of this section may not be used for net energy billing pursuant to sections 3209-A and 3209-B.

5. Notification. A retail electricity customer installing an eligible system shall provide a notification to the transmission and distribution utility in whose service territory the eligible system is to be installed in a form prescribed by the commission within 30 days of installation. The notification must include, but is not limited to, the retail customer's service address, the inverter capacity of the eligible system and a statement that the retail electricity customer is in compliance with the requirements of this section. A transmission and distribution utility may not deny installation of an eligible system that complies with the requirements of this section.

6. Prohibitions. A transmission and distribution utility may not require a retail electricity customer installing or operating an eligible system to:

(A) Obtain approval from the transmission and distribution utility prior to installation or operation except as provided in subsection 5;

(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 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.

8. Structural and code compliance; removal. A retail electricity customer who installs or operates an eligible system on or in a structure the customer does not own shall ensure that the installation 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.

9. Insurance treatment. An insurance company shall consider an eligible system installed and operated under this section personal property and provide coverage for such systems under a standard homeowners or renters insurance policy, without requiring separate or specialized insurance policies. This subsection does not preclude an insurer from adjusting premium rates consistent with underwriting practices.

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 in net energy billing. The amendment also establishes requirements for the retail customer's installation and removal of such systems.

The amendment also directs the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to adopt amendments to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to require that a property with four or more residential dwelling units on which construction commences after December 1, 2026 include at least one outdoor individual branch circuit per unit.