An Act To Exclude Energy Efficiency Improvements from Property Tax
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10104, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Energy efficiency improvements. The trust shall identify and establish a list of energy efficiency improvements as defined in Title 36, sections 655 and 656 and update and make that list available annually to municipalities and the State Tax Assessor.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §655, sub-§1, ¶T, as amended by PL 2019, c. 440, §2, is further amended to read:

T. Trail-grooming equipment registered under Title 12, section 13113; and

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §655, sub-§1, ¶U, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 440, §3, is amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

The bureau may audit the records of a municipality to ensure compliance with this paragraph. The bureau may independently review the records of a municipality to determine if exemptions have been properly approved. If the bureau determines that an exemption was improperly approved, the bureau shall ensure, either by setoff against other payments due the municipality or otherwise, that the municipality is not reimbursed for the exemption. A municipality that is aggrieved by a determination of the bureau under this paragraph may appeal pursuant to section 151; and

Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §655, sub-§1, ¶V is enacted to read:

V. Energy efficiency improvements. For the purposes of this paragraph, "energy efficiency improvement" means personal property that is an improvement to real or personal property that will result in energy efficiency and substantially reduced energy use and:

(1) Meets or exceeds applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Energy Energy Star program or similar energy efficiency standards established or approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust, established in Title 35-A, section 10103; or

(2) Involves weatherization of residential, commercial or industrial property in a manner approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust.

Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §656, sub-§1, ¶L is enacted to read:

L. Energy efficiency improvements. For the purposes of this paragraph, "energy efficiency improvement" means real property that is an improvement to real or personal property that will result in energy efficiency and substantially reduced energy use and:

(1) Meets or exceeds applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Energy Energy Star program or similar energy efficiency standards established or approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust, established in Title 35-A, section 10103; or

(2) Involves weatherization of residential, commercial or industrial property in a manner approved by the Efficiency Maine Trust.
SUMMARY

This bill provides property tax exemptions for energy efficiency improvements and requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to identify and make available and list such improvements.