



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1535

S.P. 619

In Senate, April 8, 2025

An Act to Reduce Illegal Cannabis Operations by Requiring Permits for High Electrical Usage

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and
Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: MORRIS of Turner.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRS §4173, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Permit required. A permit is required for the installation or upgrade of electrical service to a total of 300 amperes or more in a residential building. The ampere ratings of all electrical panels must be added together to determine whether the 300-ampere threshold in this subsection is met. If the residential building is in a municipality that has provided for electrical inspections, the person performing the work must apply to the municipal electrical inspector in writing for a permit. If the residential building is not in a municipality that has provided for electrical inspections, the person performing the work must apply to a state electrical inspector in writing for a permit. A municipal electrical inspector or state electrical inspector shall notify the transmission and distribution utility that serves the residential building of an application made under this subsection.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRS §3217, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Suspicious power use reports. The following provisions govern the reporting of suspicious power use. A consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall report to the code enforcement or inspection authority of a municipality whenever the transmission and distribution utility becomes aware that one of the following events has occurred within that municipality:

A. A 300-ampere or more total service is installed or an existing service is upgraded to a 300-ampere or more total service at a residential property, regardless of whether that installation or upgrade is a single 300-ampere or more panel or multiple smaller panels the sum of which is 300 amperes or more;

B. A transformer malfunctions;

C. A transformer larger than 25 kilovolt-amperes is installed or a transformer is upgraded to a transformer larger than 25 kilovolt-amperes for a residential customer;

D. There is a month-to-month increase in power consumption greater than 500% for a residential customer; or

E. Upon investigation, the transmission and distribution utility finds evidence that power diversion or theft has occurred by circumventing a residential meter to obtain access to service.

The report must include the square footage of the residential property and the reason for the power increase, if known to the consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility or the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility.

SUMMARY

This bill requires a permit for the installation or upgrade of electrical service to a total of 300 amperes or more in a residential building. It also requires a transmission and distribution electric utility to report suspicious power use and transmit that report to municipal officials when: a 300-ampere or more total service is installed or an existing service is upgraded to a 300-ampere or more total service at a residential property, regardless of whether that installation or upgrade is a single 300-ampere or more panel or multiple smaller panels the sum of which is 300 amperes or more; a transformer malfunctions; a transformer larger than 25 kilovolt-amperes is installed or a transformer is

1 upgraded to a transformer larger than 25 kilovolt-amperes for a residential customer; there
2 is a month-to-month increase in power consumption greater than 500% for a residential
3 customer; or the transmission and distribution utility finds evidence that power diversion
4 or theft has occurred. The report must state the reason for the power increase if known by
5 the transmission and distribution utility.