

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

S.P. 858 - L.D. 2140

**Resolve, to Establish a Demand Response Program to Lower Electric Bills  
and Improve Grid Reliability**

**Sec. 1. Demand response program; established. Resolved:** That the Efficiency Maine Trust, referred to in this resolve as "the trust," currently administering behind-the-meter demand management programs in the State, shall establish the demand response program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The trust shall administer the program through the end of fiscal year 2027-28. The trust may extend the program beyond that date, in its discretion, if such an extension is proposed and approved in the trust's next triennial plan pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4.

**Sec. 2. Savings and reliability through reduction of peak demand. Resolved:** That, as a part of the program, the trust shall develop an outreach and education campaign to increase participation in the State's transmission and distribution utilities opt-in time-of-use rates to encourage shifting electricity consumption to off-peak periods. The trust may not require an electricity customer to participate in the program. The program must be designed to focus on savings opportunities most appropriate for the State's electrical loads, grid planning and climate.

**Sec. 3. Accessibility. Resolved:** That the program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, as determined by the trust, and the trust shall prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers.

**Sec. 4. Collaboration. Resolved:** That the trust shall collaborate with the State's transmission and distribution utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Energy Resources, as well as the public, and public interest organizations, including, but not limited to, community action agencies, by seeking input on the design of the program. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide assistance in delivering information about the program to potential program participants. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide customer data and other

information to the trust necessary for program assessment and enhancing participation in the program.

**Sec. 5. Report. Resolved:** That the trust shall assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment. The trust shall include in the report any challenges it encountered in administering the program and any opportunities the trust identifies for improving and expanding efforts to shift electricity consumption to off-peak periods and to help lower electricity bills and improve grid reliability.