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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 763, L.D. 1888, “An Act to Reduce Electricity Costs for Maine’s Consumers and Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Renewable Resources”

Amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency preamble.

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 9 in paragraph A in the 3rd line (page 1, line 26 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and not greater than \$5 for the requirement under subsection 3"

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 9 in paragraph B in the last 4 lines (page 1, lines 39 to 42 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "in the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund established under section 10121, subsection 2 to be used to fund research, development and demonstration projects relating to renewable energy technologies and to fund rebates for cost-effective renewable energy technologies" and inserting the following: 'in the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund established under section 10121, subsection 2 to be used to fund research, development and demonstration projects relating to renewable energy technologies and to fund rebates for cost-effective renewable energy technologies to provide financial assistance for low-income households in accordance with section 3214, subsection 2'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 316, §3, is amended to read:

2. Low-income assistance. In order to continue existing levels of financial assistance for low-income households and to meet future increases in need caused by economic exigencies, the commission shall:

A. Receive funds collected by all transmission and distribution utilities in the State at a rate set by the commission in periodic rate cases; ~~and~~

A-1. Receive funds collected by the commission for alternative compliance payments in accordance with section 3210, subsection 9, paragraph B; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 B. Set initial funding for programs based on an assessment of aggregate customer need
2 in periodic rate cases. The funding formula may not result in assistance being counted
3 as income or as a resource in other means-tested assistance programs for low-income
4 households. To the extent possible, assistance must be provided in a manner most
5 likely to prevent the loss of other federal assistance.

6 The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted under this
7 subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

8 Amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency clause.

9 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
10 number to read consecutively.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause. It amends
13 the bill to require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a Class II resource
14 requirement alternative compliance payment rate and requires the commission to consider
15 historical prices and investments that may affect the availability or price of Class II
16 resources in establishing all alternative compliance rates. Alternative compliance payments
17 for Class II resource requirements must be used to provide financial assistance to low-
18 income households instead of being deposited into the Energy Efficiency and Renewable
19 Resource Fund and amends the section of law directing the commission to provide low-
20 income assistance to include the receipt of alternative compliance payments. The
21 amendment also removes language from the bill that makes changes to the Class IA
22 resource and thermal renewable energy credit portfolio requirement report.

23 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

24 **(See attached)**