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## **An Act To Ensure Fairness among Large Consumers of Natural Gas**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10111, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 425, §2, is amended to read:

**2-A. Exemptions.** A wholesale electricity-generating facility that has a nameplate capacity of 3 megawatts or greater or a large-volume customer that does not purchase its natural gas from a gas utility is not eligible to participate in any natural gas conservation program under this section. The commission may not allow a gas utility to collect an assessment under this section through its rates from a wholesale electricity-generating facility that has a nameplate capacity of 3 megawatts or greater or a large-volume customer that does not purchase its natural gas from a gas utility. For purposes of this section, "large-volume customer" means a customer that purchases at least 1,000,000 centum cubic feet of natural gas per year.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill extends the existing ineligibility for participation in and the exemption from assessment for natural gas conservation programs to large-volume customers that do not purchase their natural gas from a Maine gas utility. Large-volume customers are defined as those purchasing at least 1,000,000 centum cubic feet of natural gas per year.