



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

---

Legislative Document

No. 1355

---

H.P. 923

House of Representatives, April 21, 2015

### An Act To Improve Residential Renewable Energy Use

---

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and  
Representatives: DION of Portland, GIDEON of Freeport, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft,  
MARTIN of Eagle Lake, O'CONNOR of Berwick, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono,  
WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator: MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3218** is enacted to read:

3 **§3218. On-bill financing of certain projects**

4 A transmission and distribution utility may provide to residential or small commercial  
5 customers on-bill financing of customer costs of installing solar energy systems in  
6 accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The rules must establish standards  
7 and an approval process for the transmission and distribution utility to offer financing and  
8 must limit eligibility to solar energy systems that would qualify the customer for net  
9 energy billing under the commission's rules adopted pursuant to section 3209-A. All  
10 costs of financing must be recovered from the customer receiving the financing. Rules  
11 adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter  
12 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10110-A** is enacted to read:

14 **§10110-A. Program for certain photovoltaic systems**

15 The trust shall establish a program to provide technical and financial assistance to  
16 persons installing residential photovoltaic systems in accordance with this section. Only  
17 a residential photovoltaic system that is able to supply energy to operate a heat pump  
18 system in the residence is eligible under the program. Notwithstanding section 10110,  
19 the trust shall allocate to this program from one of the funds established pursuant to  
20 sections 10109, 10110 and 10119 at least \$500,000 but no more than \$1,500,000 each  
21 year. Financial assistance provided under the program may be in the form of customer  
22 rebates for the costs incurred in the installation of a residential photovoltaic system.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill:

25 1. Allows a transmission and distribution utility to provide to residential or small  
26 commercial customers on-bill financing of customer costs of installing solar energy  
27 systems in accordance with rules adopted by the Public Utilities Commission; and

28 2. Directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a program to provide technical and  
29 financial assistance to persons installing residential photovoltaic systems that can supply  
30 energy to operate heat pump systems in residences.