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Legislative Document

No. 1701

H.P. 1181

House of Representatives, December 22, 2017

An Act To Improve the Energy Efficiency of Group Homes in the Northern Part of the State

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: HERBIG of Belfast, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, NADEAU of Winslow,
WHITE of Washburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§4, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 282, §2, is
3 further amended to read:

4 A. The trust shall allocate 50% of the funds for residential programs and 50% for
5 commercial and industrial programs. Trust funds must be allocated for measures,
6 investments, loans, technical assistance and arrangements that reduce electricity
7 consumption, increase energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
8 lower energy costs at commercial or industrial facilities and for investment in
9 measures that lower residential heating energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas
10 emissions. The measures that lower residential heating demand must be fuel-neutral
11 and may include, but are not limited to, energy efficiency improvements to residential
12 buildings and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce residential energy
13 costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the board. The trust shall
14 ensure that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available for low-
15 income households as defined by the trust. The trust may use funds allocated for
16 residential programs for group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities in
17 Aroostook County as long as the trust limits the expenditure of these funds to \$3,500
18 per group home. When promoting electricity cost and consumption reduction, the
19 trust may consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that also lower
20 peak capacity demand. Subject to the apportionment pursuant to this subsection, the
21 trust shall fund conservation programs that give priority to measures with the highest
22 benefit-to-cost ratio, as long as cost-effective collateral efficiency opportunities are
23 not lost, and that:

24 (1) Reliably reduce greenhouse gas production and heating energy costs by fossil
25 fuel combustion in the State at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per
26 unit of emissions; or

27 (2) Reliably increase the efficiency with which energy in the State is consumed
28 at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of energy saved.

29 Notwithstanding this paragraph, during fiscal years 2017-18 to 2019-20, the trust is
30 not required to allocate 50% of the funds to residential programs and 50% of the
31 funds to commercial and industrial programs and may instead allocate those funds to
32 programs at the trust's discretion.

33 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10119, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 372, Pt. B,
34 §3, is amended to read:

35 B. Funds from the fund may be used only for programs that provide cost-effective
36 energy efficiency and weatherization measures for the benefit of heating fuel
37 customers or to efficiency service providers serving those customers and in
38 accordance with the following.

39 (1) Program categories must include low-income, single-family and 2-family
40 residential units, multifamily residential units, small business, commercial and
41 institutional and such other categories as the trust determines appropriate. A
42 program category must include group homes for persons with intellectual

