

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 307 - L.D. 398

An Act To Allow for Greater Flexibility in Addressing Energy Efficiency Needs in the State**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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

A. ~~The trust shall allocate 50% of the funds for residential programs and 50% for commercial and industrial programs.~~ Trust funds must be allocated for measures, investments, loans, technical assistance and arrangements that reduce electricity consumption, increase energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs at commercial or industrial facilities and for investment in measures that lower residential heating energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The measures that lower residential heating demand must be fuel-neutral and may include, but are not limited to, energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce residential energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the board. The trust shall ensure that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available for low-income households as defined by the trust. When promoting electricity cost and consumption reduction, the trust may consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that also lower peak capacity demand. Subject to the apportionment pursuant to this subsection, the trust shall fund conservation programs that give priority to measures with the highest benefit-to-cost ratio, as long as cost-effective collateral efficiency opportunities are not lost, and that:

- (1) Reliably reduce greenhouse gas production and heating energy costs by fossil fuel combustion in the State at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of emissions; or
- (2) Reliably increase the efficiency with which energy in the State is consumed at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of energy saved.

~~Notwithstanding this paragraph, during fiscal years 2017-18 to 2019-20, the trust is not required to allocate 50% of the funds to residential programs and 50% of the~~

~~funds to commercial and industrial programs and may instead allocate those funds to programs at the trust's discretion.~~