

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

S.P. 257 - L.D. 589

**An Act to Ensure That the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits
to Maine Ratepayers**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3148 is enacted to read:

§3148. Periodic review of grid-enhancing technology

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Grid-enhancing technology" means any hardware or software technology that enables enhanced or more efficient flow of electricity across the existing electric transmission and distribution system. "Grid-enhancing technology" does not include generation assets or energy storage.

B. "Large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility" has the same meaning as in section 3201, subsection 12.

2. Periodic review. Beginning January 15, 2025, and every 5 years thereafter, the commission shall conduct a review or contract with a consultant to conduct a review of available grid-enhancing technology that could be implemented by a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure in the State. The commission may produce a report or contract with a consultant to produce a report describing the grid-enhancing technology identified in the review. The commission may file information or the report for use in rate cases or other proceedings involving a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, including the integrated grid planning proceeding required pursuant to section 3147, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3802, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Beneficial load. "Beneficial load" means:

A. An increase in electric load that is consistent with the principles of beneficial electrification; or

B. The excess electrical capacity within the grid, the use of which is consistent with beneficial electrification and, when feasible, avoids the need for significant investment in or expenditures for additional grid infrastructure.

"Beneficial load" includes electric load that is used to reduce peak demand or shift the demand to lower cost time periods.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 328, §1, is amended to read:

2. Plan for promoting beneficial electrification for end uses of energy. The trust shall develop a 3-year beneficial electrification plan for end uses of energy as part of the trust's triennial plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 4 and provide annual updates to the plan in accordance with section 10104, subsection 6. ~~In developing its beneficial electrification plan for end uses, the trust shall consult with relevant departments and agencies.~~

A. In developing its beneficial electrification plan for end uses that promotes beneficial electrification, the trust shall:

- (1) Consult with relevant departments and agencies;
- (2) Consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load; and
- (3) Integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the office as appropriate.

B. In developing its beneficial electrification plan under this subsection, the trust shall consider:

- (1) Incorporating the assumptions and advancing the findings and recommendations of the office in its "Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040" study launched in August 2023, part of the comprehensive state energy plan required by Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C;
- (2) Whether, in order to enable more efficient generation and transmission planning, a certain type or location of electric load is beneficial load;
- (3) Integrating with and informing the commission's consideration of grid planning priorities pursuant to section 3147; and
- (4) Seeking input from transmission and distribution utilities and relevant agencies and organizations in the State.

Sec. 4. Efficiency Maine Trust beneficial electrification update. By February 1, 2025, the trust shall provide a written update on its beneficial electrification planning as well as any recommendations, which may include proposed legislation, to improve its planning activities or to advance beneficial electrification, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3802, subsection 1, and siting of beneficial load, as defined in Title 35-A, section 3802, subsection 1-A, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to beneficial electrification or the trust's recommendations to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted consulting services.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$102,100
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$102,100</u>