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H.P. 244

House of Representatives, February 12, 2015

Resolve, To Study Options for a State Demand Response Program

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

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Embden.

Cosponsored by Representative HOBBINS of Saco, Senator WHITTEMORE of Somerset and Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, CHIPMAN of Portland, FREDETTE of Newport, GROHMAN of Biddeford, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, O'CONNOR of Berwick, RYKERSON of Kittery, Senator: WOODSOME of York.

Preamble. Whereas, there is significant value to individual consumers of electricity who participate in demand response programs that provide incentives to induce lower electricity use at times of high wholesale market prices or when system reliability is jeopardized and to consumers who benefit from reduced peak electricity pricing and increased electrical grid stability; and

Whereas, such consumer and grid benefits are best obtained through formal demand response programs designed to encourage consumer participation; and

Whereas, the State's consumers and economy are being harmed by increased energy costs due to natural gas pipeline constraints and this harm may be reduced through participation in a state demand response program; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court is currently considering whether demand response programs are within the federal jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or are reserved to state jurisdiction and the resulting uncertainty has reduced participation in existing demand response programs; and

Whereas, it is important to the State's electrical consumers and economy that the State be prepared to implement a demand response program, if necessary, for either Maine alone or in conjunction with the other New England states; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Study of options for a state demand response program. Resolved: That the Efficiency Maine Trust shall, using existing resources, study options for a state demand response program that will produce electricity consumer and electrical grid benefits. In conducting its study, the trust shall consult with the Governor's Energy Office, the Public Utilities Commission and ISO-New England and shall survey other states in New England regarding their interest in demand response programs at the state or regional level. The trust shall solicit the involvement of energy consumers in the State and determine consumer preferences for demand response program elements and rules. The trust shall issue a draft report and accept comments from the public and other interested parties. The trust shall submit a report of its study and conclusions, including recommended legislation, by February 1, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

30 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to conduct a study of options for a state demand response program that will produce electricity consumer and electric grid benefits and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2016.