An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy

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

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner and Senators: HARRINGTON of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, LYMAN of Livermore Falls.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§2, ¶B-3, as amended by PL 2019, c. 477, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Whose total power production capacity does not exceed 100 megawatts and relies on one or more of the following:

(a) Fuel cells;
(b) Tidal power;
(d) Geothermal installations;
(e) Hydroelectric generators that meet all state and federal fish passage requirements applicable to the generator;
(f) Biomass generators that are fueled by wood, wood waste or landfill gas; or
(g) Anaerobic digestion of by-products of waste from animals or agricultural crops, food or vegetative material, algae or organic refuse; or

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2009, c. 542, §5, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) Whose total power production capacity does not exceed 100 megawatts and that relies on one or more of the following:

(a) Fuel cells;
(b) Tidal power;
(c) Solar arrays and installations;
(d) Wind power installations;
(e) Geothermal installations;
(f) Hydroelectric generators;
(g) Biomass generators that are fueled by wood or wood waste, landfill gas or anaerobic digestion of agricultural products, by-products or wastes; or
(h) Generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling.

SUMMARY

This bill removes the 100-megawatt maximum capacity limit for a source of electrical generation to qualify as a renewable resource for purposes of meeting the State's renewable resource portfolio requirement.