



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL
REGULATION
BUREAU OF INSURANCE



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Robert L. Carey
Superintendent

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

January 15, 2026

Senator Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1730, “An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State”

The Honorable Senator Lawrence and the Honorable Representative Sachs:

The Maine Bureau of Insurance offers the following with regard to LD 1730, “An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State” as amended by the sponsor’s amendment dated December 30, 2025.

The Bureau appreciates the committee’s efforts to promote affordable renewable energy solutions, and we offer no opinion on the overall merits of the legislation.

Our concerns are confined to Section 9 of the proposed amendment, which mandates that insurance companies provide coverage for eligible plug-in solar systems under “standard” homeowners or renters insurance policies. We respectfully request the committee remove this mandate from the bill.

Maine has a highly competitive homeowners insurance market, with over 100 insurers offering coverage. For many years, Maine has been ranked among the most affordable homeowners insurance markets in the country. As the Bureau noted in its September 2025 report “Availability of Insurance in the Maine Property & Casualty Market,” Maine ranked tenth in the country for lowest homeowners insurance premiums.

Mandated insurance coverages are generally disfavored in regulatory policy relating to property and casualty insurance because they can distort the natural functioning of the insurance market in ways that are potentially harmful to consumers. Mandates often lead to increased premiums for all policyholders, as insurers must involuntarily account for risks that may not align with insurers’ underwriting and business strategies. In a competitive property and casualty insurance market, which Maine enjoys, insurers are well positioned to evaluate emerging technologies, such as plug-in solar systems, and offer appropriate coverage options based on actuarial data, risk profiles, and consumer demand.

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Additionally, the requirement to include this type of mandate in a renter's policy has wider implications. A rented property is typically covered by a commercial insurance policy. By mandating that a renter's policy include the devices covered by the bill it forces the commercial insurer who insures the building to accept a risk for which they had no opportunity to charge a premium, and that may be outside their underwriting guidelines.

We respectfully request that Section 9 be removed from the legislation. If, however, the committee chooses to retain the insurance coverage mandate, we recommend relocating the mandate to the Maine Insurance Code that is found in Title 24-A. Placement in Title 24-A would ensure consistency with existing statutes governing the insurance industry and would remove doubt as to the Bureau's jurisdiction to regulate compliance.

The Bureau further recommends providing additional specificity regarding some of the terms used in Section 9 of the amendment, such as "standard homeowners or renters insurance policy" and "separate or specialized insurance policies." These terms are unclear in the insurance context. There are several different homeowners insurance "forms" used by insurance companies for different types and uses of property. If coverage is mandated, similar to the notification requirement to the energy utility provider, consumers should also be required to notify the insurer of the policyholder's use of a device described in the bill.

I hope this information is useful to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of Insurance if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Carey
Superintendent

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