



Mark W. Lawrence  
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

***Testimony of Senator Mark W. Lawrence introducing  
LD 905, An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused  
Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
March 26, 2025***

Chair Sachs and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Mark Lawrence. I am the State Senator from District 35, proudly representing Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here to present LD 905, "An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers."

In the 131st Legislature, this body passed a bill to require that the value of all unused kilowatt-hour credits that were accumulated and that expired during the prior calendar year be remitted to the Commission by January 1st to be used for the benefit of individuals participating in the low-income assistance program (LIAP).

This bill changes the mechanism by which a transmission and distribution utility is required to remit the value of unused kilowatt-hour credits that were accumulated and that expired during the prior calendar year by requiring the utility to remit the value to the administrators of the statewide low-income assistance plan and the individual low-income assistance programs instead of the Public Utilities Commission.

Further, it changes the date for remittance from January 1st to April 1st and requires that the commission, by rule, adopt provisions regarding the manner by which the transmission and distribution utility must report to the commission information regarding the number of unused kilowatt-hour credits that were accumulated by all customers of the utility with net energy billing arrangements during the prior calendar year and that expired during the prior calendar year and the monetary value of those credits.

LD 905 seeks to provide greater clarity and compliance on the law, by allowing Maine State Housing Authority to take in credits for the LIAP program directly instead of going through the PUC, which causes administrative delay in the processing of these credits. It would also give the entities involved, the PUC and MSHA, an appropriate amount of time, until April 1, to track data, file reports and ensure a robust quality analysis of the unused credits. In essence, this bill helps cut red tape and deliver needed relief to Maine's low-income electric utility customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill. I am happy to answer questions you may have for me and would defer questions about specifics to the representatives from the PUC that are here today.