



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES  
62 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0062

JANET MILLS  
GOVERNOR

DAN BURGESS  
ACTING COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

**THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS  
&  
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

**“An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”**

**L.D. 2212**

**February 26, 2026**

Good afternoon, Senators Rotundo and Lawrence, Representatives Gattine and Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Energy, Utilities & Technology. My name is Dan Burgess, and I am the Acting Commissioner of the Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER). I am here today to testify in support of L.D. 2212, the Governor’s Supplemental Budget proposal for State fiscal years 2026 and 2027. This testimony addresses each item and proceeds sequentially from pages A-36 through A-38 and language found on page 64.

This is the final budget proposal from the Administration. The proposal delivers financial relief to Maine people, preserves programs lawmakers and Maine people support, and addresses some emergent issues, including impacts of new federal legislation. Governor Mills’ guiding belief has always been that our strongest asset is the people of Maine and that’s why this budget, like those in the past, seeks to invest in and support them. We look forward to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to enact a balanced budget that supports Maine people and protects the fiscal health of our state.

The DOER is responsible for energy resources, planning, programs and development for the state. DOER provides policy leadership and technical assistance, develops energy programs, monitors energy markets, and reports on heating fuel and electricity prices, among other activities. DOER works in partnership with various state agencies, federal and local officials, industry, nonprofit interests, and academia on energy issues. DOER's mission is to deliver the expertise and coordination needed to strengthen the state’s energy system and ensure affordable, reliable and increasingly cleaner energy for all people and businesses. The Department works in partnership with state agencies, federal and local officials, industry, advocacy organizations and nonprofits, academia, and other stakeholders on solutions to meet the state's current and future energy needs.



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You will see that our supplemental budget requests address ongoing work and critical needs within our programs. DOER's proposed budget requests also include initiatives that finalize the transfer of remaining funds and energy programs required as a result of the transition from the Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources pursuant to L.D. 1270, as well as related position adjustments. These initiatives ensure that the Department has the funding, staffing, and operational capacity necessary to carry out its statutory duties and responsibilities in a consistent and effective manner. Now to the details. You will also see the "blippie" from the budget document in italics that I won't be reading but is there for orientation and additional information. Hopefully, these introductory comments provide helpful background information as you consider the following initiatives.

**Department of Energy Resources (Z424)**

The **first initiative** on page **A-36** transfers funding of \$1.5 million provided in Public Law 2025, chapter 388, from the former Governor's Energy Office program in the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. This is a technical change necessary to transfer funding provided to the prior GEO during the first session of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature to the new DOER.

*Initiative: Transfers All Other funding provided in P.L. 2025 c.388, from the former Governor's Energy Office program, General Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, General Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.*

The second initiative on page **A-36** provides funding of \$3 million in fiscal year 2027 to support and expand DOER's existing Grid Resilience Grant Program and to serve as match for future anticipated federal funding of the Program which supports critical investments in electric reliability and resilience projects across the state. To date, the Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program, supported by federal funds and matching funds from recipients, has delivered more than \$6.6 million in electric infrastructure investments to Aroostook, Washington, Cumberland, Somerset and Knox counties. However, the Program has been oversubscribed, with qualified applicants requesting substantially more funding than is available, necessitating this request. Additional information about this program is attached to this testimony.

*Initiative: Provides funding to meet a significant need for investment in grid resilience and provides cost match for an estimated \$4.4 million in future federal funding.*

The third initiative on page **A-36** continues and provides funding in fiscal year 2027 for one Public Service Coordinator II position to support Energy Program Management initiatives and related grant management, programming, communications and external engagement. The position is part of the Division of Planning and Policy which is responsible for work related to the implementation of the state's



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energy plan, new energy procurement authority and related programing. This position is currently filled and is federally funded.

*Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator II position previously established by Public Law 2025, chapter 388, to support Energy Program Management initiatives and related grant management, programming, communications and external engagement. This initiative also provides funding for All Other related costs.*

The fourth initiative on page **A-36** transfers funding for the Commissioner position from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund and transfers and reallocates funding for the Deputy Commissioner position from the Federal Expenditures Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027. This will fund the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner positions from the General Fund in line with the way Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner positions are funded throughout State Government.

*Initiative: Transfers one Commissioner of The Department of Energy Resources from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program, and transfers and reallocates one Deputy Commissioner of The Department of Energy Resources from Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund within the same program.*

The last initiative on page **A-36** provides \$4,832 in fiscal year 2026 and \$6,758 in fiscal year 2027 for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from range 32 to range 33.

*Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from a range 32 to range 33.*

Please note, the next three budget initiatives are included to finalize the transfer of appropriations from GEO to DOER, these are technical in nature, moving \$500 placeholder funds in each of these accounts to DOER.

**Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program (Z453)**

*The program is established to provide funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in this State.*

The only initiative in this program on page **A-37** transfers the Other Special Revenue Funds allocation from Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program in the Executive Department to Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program in the Department of Energy Resources.



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*Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.*

**Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Economic Development Program (Z454)**

*This program is established to further the development and use of offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The Department, in collaboration, with the commission, shall ensure that the program is designed to advance the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations and climate policies of the State.*

The only initiative in this program on page **A-37** transfers the Other Special Revenue Funds allocation from Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Economic Development Program in the Executive Department to Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Economic Development Program in the Department of Energy Resources.

*Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Economic Development program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.*

**Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund (Z452)**

*This program is an initiative in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to coordinate, support and arrange for the conduct of research on offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine.*

The only initiative in this program on page **A-37** transfers the Other Special Revenue Funds allocation from Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program in the Executive Department to Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program in the Department of Energy Resources.

*Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.*



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**LANGUAGE**

Part RR on page 64 authorizes any unexpended General Fund balances in the Department of Energy Resources program to carry each fiscal year and not lapse.

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This concludes the presentation on DOER's Supplemental Budget requests. I appreciate your time and interest in our efforts to advance affordable, reliable and clean energy for Maine's people and the economy, and to effectively complete the transfer of duties from the Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources. I would be happy to address any questions you may have and bring additional information to the work session.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Burgess".

Dan Burgess, Action Commissioner  
Department of Energy Resources

# Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program



*The Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program is an existing initiative at the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) that is deploying targeted funds to increase the resilience of the electric grid and Maine communities.*

*An additional \$3 million in proposed state funds will maximize anticipated federal funds and support new investments in the grid while increasing workforce opportunities, aligning ongoing electric grid modernization efforts and other state energy objectives.*

## **Maine's aging electric grid infrastructure faces significant pressure from severe storms**

- As a heavily forested, rural state, Maine's electricity distribution lines have a high probability of damage from falling trees during wind or ice storms. As a result, Maine experiences more frequent and longer duration power outages than most US states. In 2024, Maine ranked third in the country for the number of total outages as well as the average time customers were without power.
- In 2023 and 2024, Maine experienced major winter storms that devastated communities across the state, including inflicting significant damage to the electric grid and imposing significant new recovery costs for customers.

## **The Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program saves ratepayers money while investing in critical reliability and resilience projects across the state, strengthening the state's infrastructure in the face of severe storms**

- The program's current projects are expected to reduce outages and avoid \$6.6 million in electricity infrastructure needs otherwise funded by customers.
  - The current program will provide direct reliability improvements to more than 60,000 customers across the state particularly by improving resilience to storm events, including flooding and storm surges that cause outages and delay restoration.
  - Some projects will reduce flooding or storm outages from multiple-day events to a small number of hours annually.
  - Grid resilience investments also reduce ongoing operations and maintenance costs, helping make electricity more affordable.
- The work supported through the Program currently includes:
  - Deploying 50 miles of new or upgraded distribution lines, more than 750 poles, and various components such as transformers, cross arms, and other devices;
  - Upgrading and relocating an existing submarine electrical cable that serves an island community;
  - Upgrading switching devices and deploying other advanced monitoring devices to more rapidly identify and manage outages;
  - Expanding vegetation management; and
  - Training apprentice line workers to address workforce needs.



## The Program leverages substantial federal and private funding to increase its reach and impact

- \$3 million in proposed state funds will serve as match for years four and five of the federal Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program anticipated to be released later in 2026, leveraging an additional \$4.4 million in federal funds that will otherwise be reappropriated to other states without this match.
- In addition, the Program has stimulated over \$6 million in matching funds from recipients.
- The Program has been oversubscribed, with qualified applicants requesting substantially more funding than is available.

## To date, the Program has invested more than \$6.6 million in Aroostook, Washington, Cumberland, Somerset and Knox Counties

- Calais region: Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative will upgrade its distribution system by replacing about 11 miles of older distribution lines, adding and replacing transformers, and replacing poles and cross arms.
- Vinalhaven and North Haven: Fox Islands Electric Cooperative will upgrade and relocate an existing submarine electrical cable that serves the island community of North Haven.
- Van Buren: Van Buren Light and Power will replace antiquated poles, distribution lines, and switching equipment while also training apprentice line workers.
- Madison area: The Madison Extreme Weather Resilience project will increase community and electric grid resilience by upgrading critical power lines, expanding vegetation maintenance, and deploying advanced monitoring devices to decrease outages and flooding vulnerability.
- Sebago region: The Central Maine Power Shaw Mill project will install upgraded grid measures and switching devices to enhance reliability in Baldwin, Sebago and Standish – an area that has experienced numerous outages affecting close to 36,000 customers in the past three years.

