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LD 866
Proposed amendment – Representative Lyford

Amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1153-A is amended to read:

§1153-A. Standards; installation

All electrical installations must comply with the National Electrical Code that is adopted by rule by the board. The board shall establish by rule technical standards for the proper installation of electrical equipment. These standards must conform as nearly as practicable to the National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association standard #70. The installation of the electrical equipment must also comply with the applicable statutes of the State and all applicable ordinances, orders, rules and regulations of any city or town where the installation is being performed. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

1. Distributed refrigeration. Notwithstanding any provision of the National Electrical Code to the contrary, the technical standards established by the board by rule pursuant to this section must authorize an electrician licensed by the board to perform an electrical installation of a distributed refrigeration module and related components to complete a balance of plant installation, regardless of whether that module has been tested and certified by an organization or entity recognized as a nationally recognized testing laboratory under the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory Program, so long as the electrical inspector of jurisdiction determines that such installation does not pose a substantial risk of danger or injury to property or the public.

As used in this subsection, “distributed refrigeration module” means a refrigeration system that consists of high side components closely coupled to the low side refrigeration load along with associated external interconnecting subsystems that allows for rejected heat to be transferred through water instead of refrigerants.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10109, sub-§4, ¶A is amended to read:

A. Trust funds must be allocated for measures, investments, loans, technical assistance and arrangements that reduce electricity consumption, increase energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs at commercial or industrial

facilities and for investment in measures that lower residential heating energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The measures that lower residential heating demand must be fuel-neutral and may include, but are not limited to, energy efficiency improvements to residential buildings, energy storage systems and upgrades to efficient heating systems that will reduce residential energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the board. The measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs at commercial and industrial facilities may include, but are not limited to, assistance in the retrofitting or replacement of advanced refrigeration products or equipment or combined refrigeration and heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment that contain a refrigerant with a high global warming potential with products or equipment that substantially reduce global warming potential compared to the products or equipment retrofitted or replaced. The trust shall ensure that measures to reduce the cost of residential heating are available for low-income households as defined by the trust. When promoting electricity cost and consumption reduction, the trust may consider measures at commercial and industrial facilities that also lower peak capacity demand, including energy storage systems. Subject to the apportionment pursuant to this subsection, the trust shall fund conservation programs that give priority to measures with the highest benefit-to-cost ratio, as long as cost-effective collateral efficiency opportunities are not lost, and that:

- (1) Reliably reduce greenhouse gas production and heating energy costs by fossil fuel combustion in the State at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of emissions; or
- (2) Reliably increase the efficiency with which energy in the State is consumed at the lowest cost in funds from the trust fund per unit of energy saved.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It amends the law establishing the technical standards for electrical installations adopted by the electricians' examining board to provide that, notwithstanding any provision of the National Electrical Code to the contrary, the standards must authorize a licensed electrician to perform an electrical installation of a distributed refrigeration module and related components to complete a balance of plant installation, regardless of whether that module has been tested and certified by an organization or entity recognized as a nationally recognized testing laboratory under the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory Program, so long as the electrical inspector of jurisdiction determines that such installation does not pose a substantial risk of danger or injury to property or the public. The term "distributed refrigeration module" is defined to mean a refrigeration system that consists of high side components closely coupled to the low side refrigeration load along with associated external interconnecting subsystems that allows for rejected heat to be transferred through water instead of refrigerants.

The amendment also amends the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund to authorize the allocation of trust funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs at commercial and industrial facilities by providing assistance in the retrofitting or replacement of advanced refrigeration products or equipment or combined refrigeration and heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment that contain a refrigerant with a high global warming potential with products or equipment that substantially reduce global warming potential compared to the products or equipment retrofitted or replaced.