



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 989

S.P. 321

In Senate, March 10, 2021

An Act Regarding the Procurement of Renewable Natural Gas by Gas Utilities

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SANBORN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 707, §5, is further amended to read:

1. Cost of gas; related costs. Subject to the approval of the commission, each gas utility shall charge its customers a cost-of-gas adjustment rate that includes reasonable costs, including those associated with the procurement of renewable natural gas, for the gas that it supplies to its firm sales customers who receive uninterrupted service on a year-round basis. The cost of gas includes the cost of the gas purchased by the company for use in the State and may include costs directly related to the gas purchased and may include all or a portion of the cost of facilities used to produce and store gas, pursuant to rules adopted by the commission under this section.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Renewable natural gas. Reasonable costs for gas include costs associated with the procurement of renewable natural gas. The commission shall allow a gas utility to use renewable natural gas for not more than 2% of the natural gas it supplies to its customers starting in 2022 and shall allow a gas utility to use an additional 2% annually thereafter and allow a gas utility to include the costs of that renewable natural gas in its cost-of-gas adjustment rate under subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §4703, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "renewable natural gas" means natural gas resulting from the decomposition of organic matter.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to allow a gas utility to use renewable natural gas for no more than 2% of the natural gas it supplies to its customers starting in 2022 and to allow a gas utility to use an additional 2% annually thereafter. A gas utility also may include the costs of that renewable natural gas in its cost-of-gas adjustment rate.