



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2099

S.P. 892

In Senate, January 3, 2024

An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
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".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

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

Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §9, sub-§6-A, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 411, §1, is amended to read:

E. Except as provided in paragraph C, ratepayer funds may not be used to implement the program or to provide funding under the program to distributed solar facilities or energy storage systems without approval by the Public Utilities Commission. The commission shall approve the use of ratepayer funds for those purposes if the commission finds that the use of ratepayer funds is reasonably likely to achieve net benefits to electric ratepayers.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3408, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §6, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The Department of Labor shall adopt routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, to implement this subsection. The Department of Labor may adopt routine technical rules relating to the Maine emerging industry compensation threshold.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program established within the Governor's Energy Office to permit the use of ratepayer funds if the Public Utilities Commission determines such use of funds is reasonably likely to achieve net benefits to electric ratepayers. The bill also authorizes the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules relating to the Maine emerging industry compensation threshold in the laws governing the State's offshore wind initiative.