

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 1237 - L.D. 1666

Resolve, To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Issue a Request for Information on a Statewide, Multiple-use Online Energy Data Platform

Preamble. **Whereas**, in order to implement comprehensive energy management and efficiency programs, it is necessary to provide customers and other stakeholders with safe, secure access to information about energy usage in homes, businesses and municipalities; and

Whereas, access to energy data is a foundational element for moving the State's natural gas and electric systems to a more efficient paradigm in which empowering customers is a critical element; and

Whereas, by enabling the aggregation of and removal of personally identifiable information from community-level energy data and requiring a consent-driven process for access to or sharing of customer-level energy usage data, as proposed by this legislation, the State can open the door to innovative business applications that will save customers money and allow for better use of the electricity grid and other utility services; and

Whereas, a multiple-use online energy data platform will enable both the private and the public sectors to plan and implement energy programs including energy efficiency, distributed generation, energy storage and transmission and distribution improvements that will help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in accordance with emissions reduction goals established in law; and

Whereas, implementation of a multiple-use online energy data platform is essential to achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by the State and by municipalities; and

Whereas, information about energy usage is currently held by individual utility companies with varying capabilities to share data, directly affecting customer and stakeholder access to quality energy data; and

Whereas, a centralized online energy data platform with defined standards regarding aggregation, data privacy and data security will create administrative and operational efficiencies for all customers and stakeholders involved in the energy sector; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission evaluation of statewide, multiple-use online energy data platform. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall issue a request for information to evaluate the feasibility of the commission's establishing and operating a statewide, multiple-use online energy data platform, referred to in this section as "the platform," that will provide natural gas and electric utility customers with safe, secure access to information about their energy usage and will allow for the aggregation of and removal of personally identifiable information from community-level energy data. In issuing a request for information on the feasibility of the platform under this section, the commission shall define the relationships among the various categories of data to be included in the platform. The request for information must require that the platform:

1. Consist of a common base of energy data for use in a wide range of applications and business uses;
2. Adhere to specific and well-documented standards for data accuracy, retention, availability, privacy and security;
3. Allow 3rd-party access to customer energy data;
4. Allow for the sharing of individual customer energy data and provide an opt-in option for utility customers when sharing data with 3rd parties;
5. Protect utility customers from unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information and ensure customer privacy rights;
6. Provide for the voluntary participation of consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities and municipal power districts; and
7. Meet the requirements for certification from the Green Button Alliance and support the Green Button "Connect My Data" standard and the energy service provider interface of the North American Energy Standards Board.

The request for information must include an evaluation of a platform that would be funded through the assessment of a fee to be collected by utilities on their customers and transferred to the commission. In evaluating the feasibility of establishing and operating the platform, the commission shall require consideration of online energy data platforms being used in other states. After receiving information, the commission shall evaluate whether the creation, operation and management of the platform can be performed by the commission or whether all or part of the creation, management or operation of the platform would need to be performed by a 3rd party. The commission shall allow public comment on the request for information.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 31, 2022, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes the results of the evaluation required under section 1. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.