



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 815

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H.P. 504

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

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**An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and  
Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and  
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of  
Bowdoinham, JAUCH of Topsham, MATHIESON of Kittery, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of  
Portland, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶CC**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 234, §16,  
3 is further amended to read:

4 CC. Encourage and provide incentives to individuals and entities that conserve energy;  
5 support and participate, with resources derived from sources except the conservation  
6 program fund under Title 35-A, section 10110, subsection 7, in markets that reward  
7 energy conservation and use the proceeds from this participation to support affordable  
8 housing programs under its jurisdiction; and create and administer programs that  
9 encourage individuals and entities to conserve energy.

10 In accordance with Title 35-A, section 10118-A, the Maine State Housing Authority  
11 shall participate in the education program and the provision of outreach services to  
12 residents of manufactured housing in the State to increase awareness of the energy  
13 efficiency programs administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Maine State  
14 Housing Authority for which the residents may be eligible.

15 In accordance with Title 35-A, section 10130, the Maine State Housing Authority shall  
16 participate in the development and implementation of the program to assist low and  
17 moderate-income homeowners and renters, including residents of manufactured  
18 housing, to purchase and install energy efficiency measures;

19 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10118-A** is enacted to read:

20 **§10118-A. Manufactured housing education program**

21 In coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority established in Title 30-A,  
22 section 4722, the trust shall develop an education program and provide outreach services  
23 to residents of manufactured housing in the State to increase awareness of the energy  
24 efficiency programs administered by the trust and the Maine State Housing Authority for  
25 which the residents may be eligible. The education program materials must include a  
26 description of each energy efficiency program for which a manufactured housing resident  
27 may qualify and the application process for that energy efficiency program. The education  
28 program materials must also identify any organizations that may assist with the energy  
29 efficiency program application process. For the purposes of this section, "manufactured  
30 housing" has the same meaning as in Title 10, section 9002, subsection 7.

31 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §10130** is enacted to read:

32 **§10130. Residential energy efficiency program**

33 **1. Program.** In coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority established in  
34 Title 30-A, section 4722, and to the extent that funds are available, the trust shall establish  
35 and implement a program to assist low and moderate-income homeowners and renters,  
36 including residents of manufactured housing, to purchase and install energy efficiency  
37 measures in accordance with this subsection. Under this program, the trust shall:

38 A. Determine and provide appropriate grants or loans to assist persons who qualify in  
39 accordance with paragraph B to purchase and install high-efficiency heat pump  
40 systems and weatherization products and services;

41 B. Establish standards for determining who qualifies under the program and prioritize  
42 for assistance homeowners and renters the trust determines to have the highest energy

1 burdens, live in rural or underserved areas or receive benefits under state or federal  
2 low-income assistance programs; and

3 C. Provide homeowners and renters who may qualify for the program under paragraph  
4 B with education regarding program eligibility and assistance with program utilization.

5 **2. Report.** The trust shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
6 having jurisdiction over energy matters reports on the status of the program as follows: the  
7 first report must be submitted no later than July 1, 2024, the 2nd report no later than July  
8 1, 2025 and the 3rd report no later than July 1, 2026.

9 For the purposes of this section, "manufactured housing" has the same meaning as in  
10 Title 10, section 9002, subsection 7.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Maine State Housing Authority  
13 to develop an education program and conduct outreach to residents of manufactured  
14 housing, which includes mobile homes, to increase awareness of the energy efficiency  
15 programs administered by each entity.

16 This bill requires the Efficiency Maine Trust, in coordination with the Maine State  
17 Housing Authority, to develop a program to provide grants or loans to assist persons who  
18 qualify to purchase and install high-efficiency heat pump systems and weatherization  
19 products and services. The program must prioritize homeowners and renters with the  
20 highest energy burdens, who live in rural or underserved areas and who receive benefits  
21 under state or federal low-income assistance programs. The trust must provide education  
22 regarding program eligibility and assistance with program navigation to individuals who  
23 may qualify for the program. The trust must provide reports to the joint standing committee  
24 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the status of the  
25 program.