

# LD 1252 AN ACT TO IMPROVE MAINE'S ECONOMY AND ENERGY SECURITY WITH SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

## Summary

This bill:

- Reinstates the solar and wind energy rebate program, which provided rebates for the purchase of certain solar and wind energy equipment, until June 30, 2018. The program had expired December 31, 2010 but EMT kept it going through 2012 with ARRA funds.

*Reference documents: Summary of testimony, White Paper from MABEP and Insource Renewables, and letter from counsel to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council*

LD 1252 as written reinstated the program nearly exactly as it existed.

- .005 cents/kWh or \$450,000 per year

An amendment came forward from the parties:

- Changes the program from “solar and wind” to “renewable energy rebate”
- Increases to .02 cents per kWh
- Adds efficient “air-source heat pumps” as an eligible technology
  - 25% of funds must go towards heat pumps
  - 75% of funds split among solar pv, solar thermal and “qualified wind”
- Inserts the program into the already existing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund, under paragraph F (dedicated to rebates)
- Removes requirement that system be 100kW or less for wind and solar pv and that the electricity be primarily for use within the residence or place of business
- Removes certification requirements for installers
- Removes requirement that the installation be connected to the electric grid

## Technical

Solar and Wind Rebate - Amount

- Original bill said that assessment could not exceed .005 cents/kWh
- Sponsor's amendment said that assessment could not exceed .02 cents/kWh
  - How is the actual amount of the assessment set?
  - Will T and subT customers be subject to the assessment? (not subject to general SBC)

Solar and Wind Rebate – “Qualified Wind”

- In the sponsor's amendment, this term is used, but not defined.
  - Original bill definition limits capacity to 100kW and requires that area have demonstrated wind power potential

Solar and Wind Rebate – “efficient air source heat pump” vs. “efficient heat pumps”

- Inconsistent terminology, terms not defined