



Legislative Update

131st Legislature – 2nd Session

EMT Board Meeting

July 27, 2024

LD 122 – An Act to Update the EV Rebate Program and to Establish a Pilot Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles.

- **Bill Details:**
 - Increases the maximum retail price threshold for eligibility of light, light-duty EVs from \$50,000 to \$55,000
 - Requires that EMT establish a pilot program to provide incentives for businesses to purchase/lease medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) EVs to:
 - “demonstrate the performance of the [EVs] ... and gather information about the [EV’s] costs, benefits and other considerations relevant to their use and adoption in this State.
 - Replaces the term “rebate” with “incentive”
- **Next Steps:**
 - Adjust current program eligibility criteria/guidelines
 - Issue Program Opportunity Notice (PON) for pilot program for commercial MHD EVs

LD 1606 – Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs

- **Bill Details:**
 - Original bill called on EMT to establish two dedicated programs for schools, including a grant program for energy audits and feasibility studies for renewable energy or energy efficiency retrofit projects, and a pilot project to provide bridge funding for solar or energy efficiency projects.
 - Final version of the bill directs the Green Schools Program within the Maine Department of Education to conduct a study and develop guidance (in coordination with EMT, GEO, and GOPIF) to assist public schools in achieving energy efficiency and maximizing the use of clean energy.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Connect with Maine Department of Education on meeting schedule
 - Support report due to the Legislature January 31, 2025

LD 2067 – An Act to Continue the Arrearage Management Program

- **Bill Details:**
 - A law enacted in April 2014 requires each electric utility to offer Arrearage Management Program (AMP) initiatives. The AMP legislation was intended to help reduce the number of low-income customers in arrears on their electric bills and, therefore, lower the “bad debt” burden to ratepayers that is associated with customers who fail to pay their utility bills.
 - The program was originally slated to sunset in 2018 but has been extended several times.
 - This bill extends AMP through September 30, 2027.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Continue to support implementation of the AMP legislation by providing participants with reports on their electricity usage and information on energy-saving products and available incentives.

LD 2053 – An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

- **Bill Details:**
 - Exempts buildings used to cultivate crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, *except that it does not exempt buildings used to cultivate cannabis.*
- **Next Steps:**
 - Reflect new baseline in measure cost-effectiveness considerations

LD 589 – An Act to Ensure that the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers

- **Bill Details:**
 - Defines “beneficial load” as:
 - A. An increase in electric load that is consistent with the principles of beneficial electrification; or
 - B. The excess electrical capacity within the grid, the use of which is consistent with beneficial electrification and, when feasible, avoids the need for significant investment in or expenditures for additional grid infrastructure.
 - "Beneficial load" includes electric load that is used to reduce peak demand or shift the demand to lower cost time periods.

LD 589 – An Act to Ensure that the Maine Electric Grid Provides Additional Benefits to Maine Ratepayers (continued)

- **Bill Details (continued):**
 - In developing its beneficial electrification plan, the Trust shall:
 - Consider incentivizing the appropriate placement of and promoting commercial or industrial beneficial load;
 - Consult with relevant departments and agencies;
 - Integrate GEO's ongoing energy planning efforts as appropriate;
 - Consider incorporating the findings of GEO's Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040 study;
 - Consider whether, in order to enable more efficient generation and transmission planning, a certain type or location of electric load is beneficial load;
 - Consider integrating with and informing the PUC's consideration of grid planning priorities; and
 - Consider seeking input from transmission and distribution utilities and relevant agencies and organizations in the State
 - **Next Steps:**
 - Submit written update on beneficial electrification planning (including any associated recommendations) to the EUT Committee by February 1, 2025.