



Legislative Update

131st Legislature – 1st Session

EMT Board Meeting

July 26, 2023

Policy Changes

LD 1724 – An Act to Enact the Beneficial Electrification Policy Act of 2023

- **Bill Details:**
 - Refines definition of “beneficial electrification” – switching end-uses and processes from fossil fuel to electric, where will reduce emissions and benefit utility ratepayers
 - Directs EMT to incorporate “beneficial electrification” into triennial plans and updates.
 - Requires the PUC to incorporate beneficial electrification measures into the calculation of electric MACE – the maximum achievable cost-effective savings – and to fund EMT’s budgets for delivering these savings through electricity utility “procurement” under Sec. 10110(4-A) of Title 35-A, even if the majority of the cost savings come from avoided costs of reduced fossil fuel consumption.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Finalize analysis of rate impacts of beneficial electrification measures with outside consultant
 - Conduct a rulemaking (amendment to Chapter 3 of EMT rules) in Fall/Winter
 - Incorporate associated changes into March 2024 Annual Update for FY2025 launch

LD 187 – An Act to Eliminate the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund and to Provide Needs-based Low-Income Assistance

- **Bill Details:**
 - EMT's EERRF was originally established to promote commercialization of renewable energy resources. Received revenues from 2 sources: (1) voluntary contributions from electric utility ratepayers and (2) alternative compliance payments (ACPs) from electricity suppliers who fail to meet their obligations under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).
 - EMT recommended eliminating this fund in Legislative Recommendations in FY2022 Annual Report because renewable energy technology has become commercialized and has other, more significant sources of financial subsidy
 - Bill eliminates EERRF; discontinues voluntary contribution element and directs ACP revenues to utilities' Low Income Assistance Program.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Connect with utilities and PUC on tasks required for discontinuation
 - Conduct formal rulemaking to repeal associated EMT rule (Chapter 103)

LD 1887 – An Act to Clarify the Review and Procurement Process for Non-Wires Alternatives (NWAs)

- **Bill Details:**
 - Ensures that future utility plans to invest in substations (and any associated equipment) are subject to the same NWA treatment as investments in any other part of the transmission and distribution system. (The statute previously excluded substations from review in the NWA process.)
 - Reflects EMT's legislative recommendation in the FY2022 Annual Report
- **Next Steps:**
 - None

LD 258 – Governor’s Budget “Change Package”

- **Bill Details:**
 - Amends the Efficiency Maine Trust Act by replacing “shall” with “may” in the current statutory language (35-A, Sec 10115) that directs the Trust to oversee and administer funds received from:
 - (a) the US DOE State Energy Program and
 - (b) other federally funded programs and projects “related to trust programs.”
- **Next Steps:**
 - Work with Governor’s Energy Office to develop an understanding about roles, responsibilities, and processes to apply for, receive, and/or administer federal funds “related to trust programs.”

Programmatic Directives

LD 256 – An Act to Add E-Bikes to EV Rebate Program

- **Bill Details:**
 - Adds electric bicycles (e-bikes) to list of eligible vehicles under EMT's EV rebate program
 - limited to low- and moderate-income (LMI) consumers (or organizations that serve those consumers) where e-bike is recipient's principal means of commuting
- **Next Steps:**
 - Program design (Staff conducting outreach to key stakeholders, researching programs in other jurisdictions)
 - Program launch anticipated by the end of 2023

LD 815 – An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents

- **Bill Details:**
 - In coordination with MaineHousing (MSHA), EMT must provide education + outreach to low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents of manufactured housing about EMT/MSHA program offerings
 - EMT must also ensure that programs for LMI residents are offered to qualified residents of manufactured housing.
 - EMT must report on activities and results in FY2024-FY2026 Annual Reports
- **Next Steps:**
 - Connect with MSHA on program development
 - Launch formal campaign in the fall

LD 1101 – An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System

- **Bill Details:**
 - EMT must establish the US Dept of Energy’s “Home Energy Scoring System” in Maine
 - EMT must establish a process for recipients of home energy scores to voluntarily report them to EMT
 - EMT must maintain a database of these scores
- **Next Steps:**
 - Launch online reporting platform/repository by June 30, 2024

Studies and Study Groups

LD 519 – Resolve, to Conduct a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses

- **Bill Details:**
 - Calls on EMT to “assess the feasibility of implementing a vehicle-to-grid pilot project” at the Wells-Ogunquit school district and make recommendations to the Legislature.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Stakeholder outreach: Innovation Advisory Group, Student Transportation of America, school districts
 - Report due to Legislature January 15, 2024

LD 467 – Resolve, to Study Accessible EV Charging Stations

- **Bill Details:**
 - Calls on Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to convene a working group to study accessible EV charging stations
 - EMT representative is one of 9 members on the working group
 - Working group to develop a document that simplifies and standardizes recommendations for contractors and other parties
- **Next Steps:**
 - Lily McVetty (EV Initiatives Program Manager) to represent EMT

LD 207 – Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Public Safety to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Examine the Responsibilities, Fees and Duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board

- **Bill Details:**
 - Commissioner of Public Safety shall convene a stakeholder group (including EMT Executive Director) to examine the responsibilities, fees and duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board
 - Report (with strategies/findings/recommendations) due to the Legislature February 15, 2024.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Michael Stoddard to serve as EMT designee

Other Relevant Studies & Proceedings

LD 952 – Resolve, to Create a 21st Century Electric Grid

- **Bill Details:**
 - Directs the Governor’s Energy Office to hire a consultant to conduct a 2-part study for the design of a distribution system operator (DSO) for Maine
- **Next Steps:**
 - Provide background information to GEO and their consultant regarding relevant legal authority, roles and activities of Efficiency Maine.
 - Ensure that information is accurately reflected and considered in the consultant’s/GEO’s study and recommendations.

LD 1850 – An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals

- **Bill Details:**
 - Increases and accelerates goals for energy storage;
 - Directs the Governor's Energy Office to:
 - “evaluate designs for a program to procure commercially available utility-scale energy storage systems connected to the transmission and distribution systems...”
 - Study and report recommendations on “long-duration energy storage”
 - Directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to solicit stakeholder input on whether, and, if so, at what cost and under what conditions, a utility may own storage
- **Next Steps:**
 - Submit relevant information to inform the evaluation
 - Provide input on/monitor PUC proceedings

LD 327 – An Act to Provide Maine Ratepayers with Equitable Access to Interconnection of Distributed Energy Resources

- **Bill Details:**
 - Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to convene a working group to collaborate to prevent and resolve disputes relating to the implementation of the State's small generator interconnection procedures for Level 1 and Level 2 facilities, as defined in Chapter 324 of the PUC's rules.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Monitor PUC proceedings

LD 542 – Resolve, Directing the PUC to Investigate Time-of-Use Rates

- **Bill Details:**
 - Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to study time-of-use rates and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 15, 2024.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Monitor PUC proceedings