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No. 347

H.P. 245

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

An Act To Facilitate Maine's Climate Goals by Encouraging Use of Electric Vehicles

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3152, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. F,
3 §3, is further amended to read:

4 C. Require the commission to consider the ability of low-income residential customers
5 to pay in full for electric services as transmission and distribution rates are redesigned
6 consistent with these policies; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3152, sub-§1, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. F, §4,
8 is amended to read:

9 D. Require the commission to set rates to the extent practicable to achieve economic
10 efficiency; ~~and~~

11 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3152, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

12 E. In accordance with section 3157, require the commission to establish incentive rates
13 to promote the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations.

14 **Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3157** is enacted to read:

15 **§3157. Electric vehicle charging stations; incentive rates**

16 The commission shall review and approve incentive rates for electric vehicle charging
17 stations in accordance with this section.

18 **1. Proposed incentive rate schedules.** The commission shall direct each transmission
19 and distribution utility to develop and submit by November 1, 2021 a proposed incentive
20 rate schedule to promote the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations.

21 A proposed incentive rate schedule:

22 A. Must be designed to align with and support relevant strategies of the State's climate
23 action plan adopted and updated under Title 38, section 577 and to help achieve the
24 State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels under Title 38, section 576-A; and

25 B. Must include an evaluation of the relative direct and indirect costs and benefits
26 associated with each proposed incentive rate and must account for varying scenarios
27 of electric vehicle adoption and usage.

28 **2. Review.** The commission, after notice and hearing, shall determine whether a
29 proposed incentive rate schedule submitted pursuant to subsection 1 meets the requirements
30 of subsection 1, paragraph A and, using the information provided under subsection 1,
31 paragraph B and any other information available to the commission, shall evaluate the costs
32 and benefits of the proposed schedule. After completing that determination and evaluation,
33 the commission shall approve, approve with modifications or reject the proposed schedule.
34 If the commission rejects the proposed schedule, the commission may either order the
35 utility to implement an incentive rate schedule established by the commission or direct the
36 utility to submit a new proposed schedule that meets the requirements of this section.

37 **3. Revisions.** Not more than once every 3 years following the establishment of a
38 transmission and distribution utility's incentive rate schedule pursuant to this section, the
39 transmission and distribution utility may file with the commission an application to revise
40 the schedule. The application under this subsection must include a description of the
41 changing costs or conditions necessitating the proposed revision. The commission shall

1 review a revision submitted under this subsection in the same manner and using the same
2 criteria as provided under subsection 2.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill requires each transmission and distribution utility, on or before November 1,
5 2021, to submit to the Public Utilities Commission a proposed incentive rate schedule to
6 promote the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations. Such proposals
7 must be designed to align with and support relevant strategies of the State's climate action
8 plan adopted and updated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 577 and to
9 help achieve the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels under Title 38, section
10 576-A. The commission, after notice and hearing, is required to approve, approve with
11 modifications or reject each proposed incentive rate schedule.