



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2010

LR 2606(04)

## Resolve, To Help Certain Businesses with Electricity Costs

**Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment " " to Committee Amendment "A"**

**Sponsor: Pres. Jackson of Aroostook**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

### Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	(\$8,549,500)	\$0	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$8,549,000)	\$500	\$500
<b>Transfers</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$8,549,500	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$8,549,500)	\$0	\$0

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment eliminates the transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Treasurer of State in fiscal year 2022-23 to pay for energy rate relief payments. It also shifts the responsibility for determining the amount of the payments from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The amendment replaces the methodology for determining the amount of relief payments in the committee amendment and instead requires the DECD to use a tiered structure of kilowatt-hour usage reflected on a customer's February 2022 invoice and the number of eligible customers identified by each covered utility. The DECD has indicated that it will use \$7.0 million in existing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 already allocated to the DECD in Public Law 2021, chapter 483 to provide the relief payments. The amount to be credited to each eligible customers bill will depend on 1) the individual's usage; 2) the total number of eligible customers identified by the covered utilities; and 3) the \$7.0 million in ARPA funds to be used for this purpose.

This amendment includes a base Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$500 in fiscal year 2022-23 to a newly established Energy Rate Relief Fund within the DECD to allow expenditure of any funds received to facilitate energy rate relief payments to eligible customers of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility. Additional costs to the PUC and the DECD associated with administering the program can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.