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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 361, L.D. 1100, “An Act To Support the Continued Access to Solar Energy and Battery Storage by Maine Homes and Businesses”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. Solar energy resources interconnection evaluation. The Public Utilities Commission shall contract with an expert to evaluate near-term reforms to the State's standards, practices and procedures related to the interconnection of renewable capacity resources as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-C, subsection 1, paragraph E using solar power to investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to:

- 1. Ensure that the timelines and requirements for interconnection do not unduly limit the ability of residential and nonresidential customers to install on-site solar energy generation and battery storage systems to offset a customer's electrical consumption and that interconnection costs for these customers are limited to interconnection facility upgrades and do not include the cost of distribution upgrades;
- 2. Improve the transparency of interconnection screens and upgrades for customer-sited generation; and
- 3. Ensure that dispute resolution processes for residential and nonresidential interconnection customers are fair and efficient and do not place a disproportionate burden of technical expertise and cost on these customers.

Within 6 months of the effective date of this Act, the commission shall conduct a proceeding and issue an order relating to the near-term reforms identified in the evaluation conducted under this section. Within one year of the effective date of this Act, the commission shall determine and adopt cost allocation methods for interconnection studies and upgrades that ensure on-site solar energy generators do not bear prohibitive costs for their projects to be studied by investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities and to be interconnected to the State's distribution system.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Provides an allocation for contracted services for a solar resources interconnection evaluation.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$254,693	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$254,693</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, makes a number of changes to the evaluation of near-term reforms to the State's interconnection standards, practices and procedures related to renewable capacity resources using solar power that is directed in the bill to be conducted by an expert contracted by the Public Utilities Commission. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)