

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 894

S.P. 386

In Senate, February 28, 2023

An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

Cosponsored by Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, President JACKSON of Aroostook, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3015 is enacted to read:

§3015. Heating or energy system

Unless otherwise authorized by statute, a municipality may not adopt any ordinance or regulation that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting an individual or entity from installing, connecting or resupplying a safe and commercially available heating or energy system of the individual's or entity's choice to serve the individual's or entity's heating or energy needs or engaging the services of a person or energy distributor to install, connect or resupply such a system. As used in this section, "energy distributor" means an individual or entity allowed to distribute or supply oil, propane, natural gas or wood or renewable resources or other related energy services to consumers in the State and "renewable resources" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C.

14 SUMMARY

This bill prohibits municipalities from prohibiting an individual or entity from installing a heating or energy system for that individual's or entity's own heating or energy needs or engaging the services of an energy distributor of that individual's or entity's choice unless the prohibition is otherwise authorized by statute.