



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Rebecca Millett

50 Market St., Ste 1A PMB 162
South Portland, ME 04106

Residence: (207) 415-3770

Rebecca.Millett@legislature.maine.gov

March 30, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Rebecca Millett presenting

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

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I am Representative Rebecca Millett. I represent House District 123, most of Cape Elizabeth. Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 1101, An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System**.

For many Americans, fuel efficiency is one of the most important factors when deciding to purchase a vehicle. But when it comes to the biggest purchase most of us will ever make – our homes – consumers typically have little information on energy consumption to inform their decisions. Sellers and homeowners can often access information about energy usage, but this is heavily influenced by the number and behavior of people living in the home at a given time. Energy costs play a large role in how affordable a property will be for a family or individual, but we are left to guess what they may be.

LD 1101 aims to change that for Maine homeowners and prospective homebuyers. It would help Mainers make informed decisions about purchasing and making improvements to their homes by establishing a statewide, easy-to-understand home energy scoring system. This system would provide an objective tool homeowners and buyers can use to help compare properties and consider investing in upgrades.

Specifically, this measure directs the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a home energy scoring system for residential buildings based on an existing federal framework. While the Trust would have the ability to tailor the system to our state's unique needs as necessary, the model already

exists thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy.¹ As drafted, the Trust would have more than a year to finalize rules to implement the system.

The bill also requires that home energy audits be conducted by a qualified energy auditor and that the energy auditor include the building's home energy score in their written report. I want to be clear that this is not creating a new licensing or certification structure. As members of the committee know, trained, qualified energy auditors are already doing great work in our communities to help Mainers understand and improve their homes' energy efficiency. This would simply support their mission and our shared goals of helping Mainers with the cost of living and decreasing our carbon footprints.

LD 1101 is an important first step to help people choose homes they can afford to heat and cool and provide information on available programs to assist in making improvements. I hope you will join me in supporting this commonsense measure.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy – Better Buildings: About the Home Energy Score. Accessed March 30, 2023. <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/home-energy-score/home-energy-score-about-score>