



Proclamation of Energy Emergency

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has recently experienced a prolonged period of below-average temperatures statewide and windy conditions in parts of the state, all of which have significantly increased heating demand for residences and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the increased heating demand has resulted in delivery backlogs by heating fuel delivery crews statewide; and

WHEREAS, delays in Federal funding for economically vulnerable residents have pushed some November fuel deliveries into December, adding to delivery backlogs; and

WHEREAS, the increased heating demand and delivery backlogs have been exacerbated by propane supply chain disruptions originating in Marcus Hook, PA, and cascading throughout the Northeast states, causing long lines at other regional propane loading facilities; and

WHEREAS, heating fuel delivery crews will need to work continuously to ensure continuity of supply during this prolonged period of cold and windy weather; and

WHEREAS, these fuel delivery backlogs and the conditions that have caused them present a direct and immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23, federal regulations limit the number of hours that certain drivers of vehicles may operate unless, as contemplated by 49 CFR § 390.23(b), an Energy Emergency is declared pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. § 742(2); and

WHEREAS, this declaration of an Energy Emergency will allow, subject to the limitations set forth below, relief from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations 49 CFR § 395.3 (maximum driving time for property-carrying vehicles);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to Me. Const. Art V, Pt 1, §§ 1 and 12, do hereby find that these conditions constitute an Energy Emergency under 37-B M.R.S. § 742(2)(A), and therefore by this Proclamation declare an Energy Emergency. This Proclamation shall constitute the exemption recognized by federal law that will enable heating fuel delivery crews to operate in Maine free from otherwise applicable hours of service limitations, provided that no motor carrier operating under this Proclamation shall require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who notifies a motor carrier that such driver needs immediate rest shall be given at least ten (10) consecutive hours off-duty before returning to service.

Motor carriers that have an Out of Service Order in effect or are under a State of Maine suspension cannot take advantage of this relief from the regulations that this declaration provides under Title 49 CFR 390.23(b). Nothing contained in this Proclamation shall be construed as an exemption from Commercial Driver's License requirements, Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing requirements, Financial Responsibility requirements, Size and Weight requirements, or any other portion of regulations not specifically identified.

Drivers operating under this Proclamation shall carry a copy as evidence of their direct emergency service to the people of Maine. This Proclamation shall expire at midnight on January 4, 2026, unless otherwise terminated or extended. Dated this 18th day of December 2025.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this eighteenth day
of December Two Thousand Twenty-Five


Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State