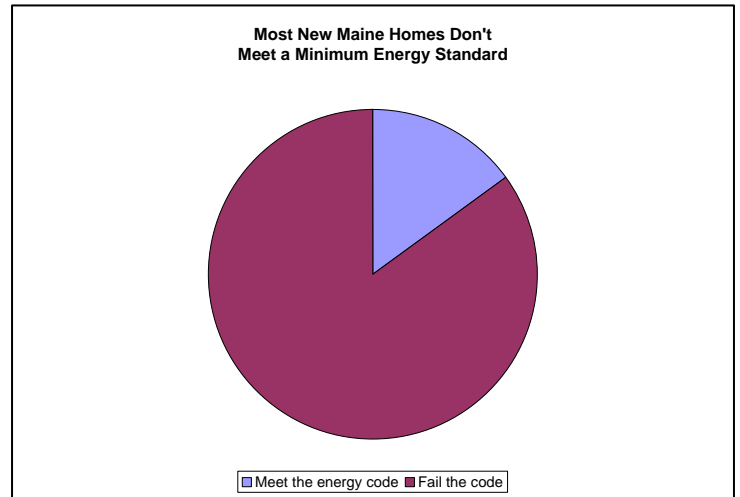


Minimum Energy Standards Would Save Maine Families Millions

Majority Report for LD 2257

Majority Report for LD 2257 includes energy standards for new construction:

- LD 2257 establishes a Uniform Building & Energy Code for Maine, helping revitalize our towns and main streets; reducing business costs and increasing predictability, and reducing heating costs for homeowners.
- **40 states, including every one in the northeast, already have a statewide energy code for new homes** (see map on reverse.)
- **The voluntary system is not working.** Fewer than 10 towns have adopted the model energy code. As a result, **85% of new Maine homes fail to meet a minimum energy standard.**
- This means families are forced to spend far more on heating costs than they should. **The energy codes are about eliminating waste and protecting consumers.**



Energy codes are proven to be save money from day one.

- **They will save money for Maine homeowners the first year.** Building to the energy code will save average new homeowners about 100 gallons of fuel oil per winter.
- Building below the code cannot possibly save money, not even in the short-term. Homes that meet the code will save **at least \$50 in heating costs in the just the first winter even after any extra building costs are subtracted.** That is money in pockets.
- But new home buyers have no way to know if a home is built to a minimum standard. They are making the biggest investment in their lifetime and deserve a little bit of consumer protection. *Wouldn't you expect a new home to be pretty energy efficient?*
- **The code only applies to new construction.** Any costs become tiny increments in mortgage payments.
- Maine builds about 7000 new homes each year. **The energy code will reduce heating costs by \$2 million/year in the first year it is implemented.** Each year as we add more homes, the annual savings grow, reaching \$20 million/year by 2020.
- **If we don't pass a statewide energy code, Maine will continue to fall further and further behind in controlling energy costs**—and increase the risk of more and more families needing heating assistance over the long-run.

