

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-14)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 12, L.D. 21, Bill, "AN ACT
to Exempt Small Water Districts from Regulation by the Public
Utilities Commission.

Amend the Bill by inserting at the beginning of the first
line after the enacting clause the following underlined abbreviation
and figure 'Sec. 1.'

Further amend the Bill by inserting at the end, before the
statement of fact, the following:

'Sec. 2. 35 MRSA §72 is enacted to read:

§72. Water districts serving 250 or fewer customers

Notwithstanding Title 35, section 15, subsection 13, water
districts serving 250 or fewer customers shall be subject to the rules
and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission under the condition
specified in this section.

A water district operating under this section shall not increase
any rate, toll, rent, entrance charge or other lawful charge without
first holding a public hearing at which any person, firm or corporation
which pays the rates, tolls, rents, entrance charges or other
lawful charges to the district may testify and may question the
trustees present regarding the proposed increase. The trustees
shall, at least 14 days prior to the hearing, publish a notice
of the date, time, place and purpose of the hearing in a newspaper
of general circulation in the area encompassed by the district.

Any → increase shall not take effect for at least 30 days after the date of the hearing. If on or before 5 p. m. on the 30th day after the hearing, voter residents in the area encompassed by the district and equal in number to at least 10% of the users of the water district's services file with the treasurer of the district petitions demanding a review of the rate changes by the Public Utilities Commission, the rate change shall be further suspended until the Public Utilities Commission shall approve the rate change.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to provide users in water districts exempted from rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission with an appeals procedure to the commission to review rate changes. According to this amendment, a water district with 250 or fewer customers must hold a hearing in order to implement a rate increase. In addition, 10% of the users of the water districts services may appeal a rate increase of the water district to the Public Utilities Commission for a final decision.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Public Utilities.

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