

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2093

6
7 Initiated Bill 3

House of Representatives, February 28, 1986

8 Transmitted to the Clerk of the House of the 112th Maine Legislature by
9 the Secretary of State on February 27, 1986 and 2,000 ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX
16

17 AN ACT to Prohibit Mandatory Local Measured
18 Service and to Preserve Affordable
19 Traditional Flat Rate Local Telephone
20 Service at as Low a Cost as Possible.
21

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

24 35 MRSA §80 is enacted to read:

25 §80. Mandatory local measured telephone service pro-
26 hibited

27 1. Mandatory measured service. Mandatory local
28 measured telephone service is prohibited in the
29 State.

30 2. Traditional flat rate local service. The
31 Public Utilities Commission shall establish rates for
32 telephone companies which will preserve traditional
33 flat rate local telephone service at as low a cost as
34 possible, allowing for unlimited local exchange call-

1 ing for a single monthly fee as the standard phone
2 service in the State for both business and residen-
3 tial customers. Flat rate service with unlimited lo-
4 cal calling shall be described by the telephone com-
5 pany as the "standard" service in all its communica-
6 tions with the public and the Public Utilities Com-
7 mission. Any other local calling service shall be
8 described as an "optional" service.

9 3. Standard. In any proceeding before the Su-
10 preme Judicial Court or the Public Utilities Commis-
11 sion to review the reasonableness and lawfulness of a
12 local telephone rate approved by the Public Utilities
13 Commission, it shall be presumed that any rate which
14 results in less than 3/4 of the residential customers
15 maintaining standard flat rate service in those ex-
16 changes offering optional measured service is in vio-
17 lation of subsection 2, requiring the Public Utili-
18 ties Commission to establish a rate structure which
19 will preserve traditional flat rate local telephone
20 service at as low a cost as possible. The presump-
21 tion established in this subsection may be overcome
22 by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable
23 alternative rate could be implemented which will
24 maintain 3/4 of the residential customers as standard
25 flat rate customers.

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 This bill is designed to provide traditional flat
28 rate local telephone service at as low a cost as pos-
29 sible and bans mandatory local measured service.

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