

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 894

H.P. 641

House of Representatives, February 6, 1997

An Act to Guarantee Wider Local Calling Access to Every Telephone Exchange in the State.

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VOLENIK of Brooklin.
Cosponsored by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock and
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, GAGNE of Buckfield, GOODWIN of Pembroke, JONES
of Bar Harbor, LANE of Enfield, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, PERKINS of Penobscot,
POVICH of Ellsworth.

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7307 is enacted to read:

§7307. Basic-service calling areas

The commission shall adopt rules establishing basic-service calling areas that conform to the following standards.

1. Five exchanges. Basic-service calling areas must include at least 5 contiguous exchanges.

2. Customer choice. Customers must be permitted to choose which 5 contiguous exchanges will be included in a basic-service calling area.

3. Cross-utility areas. When a basic-service calling area has been established that extends beyond the service territory of a single local exchange carrier, the basic-service calling area rate structure may not unfairly advantage one local exchange carrier over another.

For purposes of this section the term "basic-service calling area" means an area in which customers may make unlimited calls at a flat monthly rate and "local exchange carrier" means any telecommunications carrier offering basic-service calling area service. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A and must be presented to the Legislature for review no later than February 1, 1998.

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SUMMARY

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt major substantive rules establishing basic-service calling areas that include at least 5 contiguous exchanges. The contiguous exchanges must be established pursuant to customer choice. When a basic-service calling area extends beyond the service territory of a single local exchange carrier, the basic-service calling area rate may not unfairly advantage one carrier over another. The rules adopted by the commission must be presented to the Legislature for review by February 1, 1998.