

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 659

S.P. 237

In Senate, January 26, 1999

An Act to Require Companies Responsible for Billing Electrical Services to Forward the Amount Collected within 3 Days.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAREY of Kennebec.

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

2

3 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3202, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1997, c.
4 316, §3, is amended to read:

6

7 **4. Electric billing and metering services.** Beginning March
8 1, 2002, pursuant to rules adopted by the commission, the
9 provision of electric billing and metering services is subject to
10 competition. The commission by rule may establish an earlier
11 date for the beginning of competition for the provision of
12 billing or metering services, except that the commission may not
13 set a beginning date that is prior to March 1, 2000.

14

15 The commission by rule shall establish minimum standards
16 necessary to protect consumers of these services and codes of
17 conduct governing the relationship among transmission and
18 distribution utilities providing electric billing and metering
19 services, any affiliates of transmission and distribution
20 utilities providing such services and providers of such services
21 that are not affiliated with a transmission and distribution
22 utility. The commission shall determine each transmission and
23 distribution utility's costs of providing electric billing and
24 metering services that are reflected in consumer rates, including
25 capital costs, depreciation, operating expenses and taxes, and
26 shall separate this portion of the consumer rate into a separate
27 charge.

28

29 A person who provides billing services for a competitive
30 electricity provider must forward payments received from the
31 electrical service customers to the competitive electricity
32 provider within 3 days of the receipt of payment from the
33 customer.

34

35 Rules adopted under this subsection are major substantive rules
36 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A and must be
37 provisionally adopted by March 1, 1999.

38

SUMMARY

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41 This bill requires a person who provides competitive billing
42 services related to electric service not provided by that person
43 to forward to the person who provided the electric service,
44 within 3 days of the receipt of payment from the customer, the
45 amount collected from the customer for the electric service.