

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 17, L.D. 33, Bill, "An Act to Lower In-state Phone Costs for Rural Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7303-A is enacted to read:

§7303-A. Basic service calling areas

1. Petition. Upon written petition of 50 or more customers of a local exchange carrier who receive local, flat-rate, basic service within no more than a single exchange area, the commission shall open a proceeding to investigate expanding that basic service calling area. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing. The commission, within 6 months of the filing of the written petition, shall issue an order that must either expand the basic service calling area or state the commission's reasons for refusing to expand the basic service calling area. If the commission expands the basic service calling area pursuant to this subsection, the commission may allow a carrier affected by the expansion to recover, to the extent reasonable, its costs, including lost revenues, attributable to the expansion.

2. Rules; limitation on petitions. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this subsection, the commission shall by rule establish standards for expanding single-exchange basic

2 service calling areas pursuant to this section. Rules adopted
3 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined
4 in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. A petition may not be
5 filed with or accepted by the commission pursuant to subsection 1
6 prior to 30 days after the effective date of this subsection.'

7 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
8 summary the following:

10 **FISCAL NOTE**

11 The Public Utilities Commission will incur some minor
12 additional costs to conduct proceedings and adopt rules to expand
13 a basic service calling area that encompasses a single exchange.
14 These costs can be absorbed within the commission's existing
15 budgeted resources.'

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment:

20 1. Allows 50 or more customers within a single-exchange
21 basic service calling area to petition the Public Utilities
22 Commission to expand that basic service calling area;

23 2. Requires the commission, upon receipt of the petition,
24 to either expand the calling area or to explain why it is not
25 expanding the calling area;

26 3. Permits the commission to allow affected carriers to
27 recover any costs associated with the expansion of the calling
28 area; and

29 4. Requires the commission no later than 30 days after the
30 effective date of this Act to adopt rules establishing standards
31 for expanding single-exchange calling areas.