

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 94

S.P. 36

In Senate, January 11, 2005

### **An Act To Credit Utility Customers with Certain Amounts Paid as Fines**

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Submitted by the Office of Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
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 BARTLETT of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative BLISS of South Portland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1510-A**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 505,  
§26, is amended to read:

6 **§1510-A. Disposition of administrative penalty**

8 Administrative penalties collected by the commission must be  
deposited in the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund  
10 under section 117. When the commission imposes on a public  
utility penalties totaling more than \$100,000 in a 12-month  
12 period, the commission may, after allocating whatever amount is  
appropriate to the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund  
14 to offset its costs of investigating the utility's misconduct,  
require the utility to apply the remainder, along with any  
16 accrued interest, as a credit on the bills of the utility's  
customers. In the month that the credit takes effect, customer  
18 bills must include language identifying the credit on the bill as  
"PUC-ordered administrative penalty: customer credit."

20  
22 **SUMMARY**

24 Currently, all administrative penalties imposed and  
collected by the Public Utilities Commission are deposited in the  
26 Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund, where they are  
used to defray unbudgeted and incidental commission expenses.  
28 Any excess is forwarded to the General Fund. This bill would  
permit the Public Utilities Commission to credit the bills of  
30 affected customers with amounts received as fines, net of  
expenses, from penalties in excess of \$100,000.