

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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No. 813

H.P. 613

House of Representatives, February 16, 2007

An Act To Provide an Energy Allowance to At-home Patients Using Ventilators

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 15, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROWNE of Vassalboro.
Cosponsored by Senator RAYE of Washington and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, CAMPBELL of Newfield, HAMPER of Oxford, LEWIN of Eliot, PRESCOTT of Topsham, SMITH of Monmouth, WATSON of Bath, Senator: McCORMICK of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§5, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 132, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 A. The equitable-treatment program must be available to any person who:

5 (1) Is eligible for benefits under the transmission and distribution utility's low-
6 income assistance program established in accordance with subsection 2; and

7 (2) Provides documentation from a doctor that the person for health reasons
8 needs an oxygen pump or ventilator at least 8 hours each day.

9 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§5, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 132, §1, is
10 amended to read:

11 B. The equitable-treatment program must be designed to ensure that the low-
12 income assistance benefits provided under this section to persons who qualify under
13 paragraph A mitigate, to an extent that is reasonably equivalent in each transmission
14 and distribution utility territory, electric charges associated with the operation of an
15 oxygen pump or ventilator. The commission may not reduce any assistance provided
16 under any low-income assistance program established under subsection 2 in order to
17 satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill provides similar treatment in the laws governing needs-based low-income
20 assistance for low-income electricity consumers who use ventilators as is provided to
21 those who use oxygen pumps.