

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1305

H. P. 946 House of Representatives, March 3, 1971
Referred to Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Emery of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Public Utilities Providing Gas Service and Valves on
Their Distribution and Service Lines.**

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

R. S., T. 35, § 142, additional. Title 35 of the Revised Statutes is amended
by adding a new section 142 to read as follows:

§ 142. Valves

Every gas company declared to be a public utility and subject to the juris-
diction, control and regulation of the Public Utilities Commission shall meet
the following standards:

1. Valves. Each distribution system must have valves thereon and such
valves shall be spaced so as to reduce the time to shut down a section of main
in an emergency. The valve spacing is determined by the operating pressure,
the size of the mains and the local physical conditions. Each valve on a main
installed for operating or emergency purposes must comply with the fol-
lowing:

A. The valve must be placed in a readily accessible location so as to facili-
tate its operation in an emergency.

B. The operating stem or mechanism must be readily accessible.

C. If the valve is installed in a buried box or enclosure, the box or enclo-
sure must be installed so as to avoid transmitting external loads to the main.

2. Service line. Each service line must have a service-line valve, and each
such valve must be located upstream of the regulator, or, if there is no regu-

lator, upstream of the meter. Each service-line valve must be installed in a readily accessible location that, if feasible, is outside of the building. Each underground service-line valve must be located in a covered durable curb box or standpipe that allows ready operation of the valve and is supported independently of the service lines.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require by statute in addition to existing rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission, that gas companies, subject to the jurisdiction of the commission, place certain valves on their distribution and service lines.