

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1418

S. P. 453

In Senate, March 14, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Authorize Municipalities to Shut Down All or
Parts of a Natural Gas System in Time of Emergency.

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

R. S., T. 30, § 3555, additional. Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 3555 to read as follows :

§ 3555. Natural gas systems

1. Order. Municipalities which have natural gas distribution systems may, to protect the health and safety of the public, upon vote of the municipal officers, order the gas company or natural gas pipeline company which distributes natural gas to shut down all or part of that system in times of any emergency as determined by said municipal officers and to prescribe criminal penalties for violation of the order.

2. Refusal. If the distributing utility refuses to carry out the order under subsection 1, then the municipal officers may take appropriate action to insure that said system or part thereof is shut down.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is to allow municipalities which have natural gas distribution systems to require the distributing utilities to shut down all or part of that system in times of emergency, as determined by responsible municipal officials, and to prescribe criminal penalties for violation of the requirement, and to further authorize the municipalities to shut down all or part of the system if the utility refuses to do so.