

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-777)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 8, L.D. 20, Bill, "AN ACT
to Provide Lifeline Electrical Service for Older Citizens."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the
enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. 35 MRSA c. 4 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 4

OLDER CITIZENS LIFELINE ELECTRICAL SERVICE LAW

§ 81. Title

This chapter shall be known as the Older Citizens Lifeline Electrical Service
Law.

§ 82. Policy

It is declared that it is a policy of the State of Maine to insure an adequate
electrical utility service to older citizens at a price they can afford. Older
citizens today face a special crisis in surviving under the constant increase in the
cost of living and particularly in the cost of fuel and utility services. It is the
purpose of lifeline electrical service to alleviate the upward spiral in the cost
of electrical service to older citizens and at the same time to encourage as well
as reward the conservation of scarce energy supplies by adopting the approach of
constant per unit cost for the use of electricity. It is the policy of the State
that older citizens be able to receive electrical service for basic necessities of
modern life, such as lighting and refrigeration, at a stable, fair and reasonable
minimum cost and to encourage the reduction of electrical power consumption for all
other uses beyond such basic necessities.

§ 83. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following
words shall have the following meanings.

1. Household. "Household" means a claimant and spouse and members of the
household for whom the claimant under Title 36, chapter 901 is entitled to claim

an exemption as a dependent under Title 36, chapter 801 for the year for which relief is requested;

2. Household income. "Household income" means all income received by all persons of a household in a calendar year while members of the household;

3. Income. "Income" means the sum of Maine adjusted gross income determined in accordance with Title 36, chapter 801, the amount of capital gains excluded from adjusted gross income, alimony, support money, nontaxable strike benefits, the gross amount of any pension or annuity including railroad retirement benefits, all payments received under the Federal Social Security Act, state unemployment insurance laws, and veterans disability pensions, non-taxable interest received from the Federal Government or any of its instrumentalities, workmen's compensation and the gross amount of "loss of time" insurance, cash public assistance and relief, but not including relief granted under Title 36, chapter 901. It does not include gifts from nongovernmental sources or surplus foods or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency;

4. Older citizens. "Older citizens" means a residential customer 62 years or older;

5. Residential customer. "Residential customer" means an individual who maintains a permanent place of abode within this State and is present in this State for more than an aggregate of 183 days each year.

§ 84. Lifeline demonstration program

The Public Utilities Commission shall establish the rules and procedures for, and put into operation, a demonstration lifeline electrical service program that shall include the following:

1. Selection of size of municipality. Selection of a medium-sized municipality, 2,500 to 10,000 population, and a large municipality, population over 10,000, in each of the service areas of the Central Maine Power Company, the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company and the Maine Public Service Company, 6 municipalities in all. These 6

municipalities shall be the municipalities in which the demonstration program is conducted.

2. Establish a lifeline rate for a period of 12 months. Establish the lifeline electrical service rate for a period of 12 months. The first rate step of the lifeline rate shall be not more than 3¢ per kilowatt hour for each of the first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity utilized in any monthly billing period. A residential customer who is an older citizen shall pay not more than the lifeline rate for electricity utilized in any month at his principal dwelling. The rate provided by this section shall not be supplemented by any minimum charges, service charge, connection charge or other periodic charge to an older citizen who is a residential customer in a principal dwelling. Where any existing rate for a particular usage level is lower than the lifeline rate established by the Commission, the lower rate shall prevail. No claim for lifeline rate otherwise allowable shall be granted to claimants of single member households with household income in excess of \$4,500 for the previous calendar year; and no claim otherwise allowable shall be granted to claimants of households of 2 or more members with income in excess of \$5,000 for the previous calendar year.

All state agencies are authorized to provide whatever support services, informational support, evaluative services and other such assistance as may be requested by the Public Utilities Commission in carrying out the objectives of the demonstration lifeline electrical service program.

§ 85. Review

After the completion of the one-year demonstration program, the Public Utilities Commission shall hold a public hearing or hearings to review the lifeline service rate to insure that it is adequate to effect the purposes of this chapter. It shall report its findings and any recommendations concerning the rate to the Legislature prior to the last day of 1976.

Sec. 2. Transitional provisions.

1. Central Maine Power Company, Bangor Hydro-Electric Company and Maine Public Service Company shall file with the Public Utilities Commission revised tariffs in conformance with this Act in accord with the direction of the commission.

2. In the event that implementation shall cause a loss of revenue to a utility, the additional revenue shall be obtained from all other classes of energy use in a just and reasonable manner.

Statement of Fact

This amendment revises the bill and incorporates pertinent provisions of the committee amendment.

Filed by Mrs. Goodwin of Bath.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
6/17/75

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