

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2245

S. P. 715

In Senate, February 23, 1976

Reported by the Minority from the Committee on Public Utilities, pursuant to Joint Order S. P. 557 and printed under Joint Rules No. 3.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Filed under Joint Rule 3, pursuant to S. P. 557.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT Relating to Water District Rate Proceedings.

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

35 MRSA § 69, 2nd ¶, 2nd sentence, is amended to read:

If ~~said~~ the investigation cannot be concluded within ~~said~~ the period of 3 months, ~~said~~ the commission may in its discretion extend the time of suspension for a further period of 5 months, **except that this time of suspension may be extended for not more than 2 months in the case of a water district.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is the result of the Public Utilities Committee's study of rates under bond, and represents the views of a minority of the committee.

This bill is an alternative solution to the problem which the bill to allow rates under bond was aimed at, the problem of delay in deciding utility rate cases. The Public Utilities Commission frequently takes the full 9 months allowed by the law to decide rate cases, because it is understaffed and overworked. There are many more rate increase filings because of inflation and the energy crises. Some utilities suffer financially because of this delay.

This bill would decrease the total statutory time period, for handling the cases of water companies only, from 9 months to 6 months.