

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-254)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 650, L.D. 794, Bill, "AN ACT Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Order a Community of Interest Study upon Petition by 10% of the Service Customers in a Telephone Exchange and to Promulgate Rules and Regulations Relating to the Establishment of Extended Area Service."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of that part designated "§2603." and inserting in its place the following:

'§2603. Petition for extended area service

1. Petition filed with commission. Whenever a petition, prescribed in form by the Public Utilities Commission, is signed by at least 10% of the service customers of a single exchange requesting extended area service to one or more exchanges and is filed with the Public Utilities Commission, the commission, being satisfied that the signatures are valid, shall order the public utility or utilities that own the exchanges in question to conduct a community of interest study.

2. Rules and regulations for study. The Public Utilities Commission shall issue rules and regulations for the implementation of the community of interest study. The rules and regulations shall include the survey methods that may be used, the variables or criteria tobe included in the study and any other guidelines that the commission considers necessary.

3. Filing of study with the commission. Every community of interest study ordered by the commission shall be filed with the commission, published and made available for public inspection.

4. Completion of study. Within 30 days from the completion of the community of interest study, the commission, any commissioner or a designee of the commission may meet with the municipal officers from the telephone exchange area from which the petitions were sent to discuss the request for extended telephone area service. The commission shall notify the municipal officers following the completion of the study.

§2604. Determination by the commission

The Public Utilities Commission shall publish its findings and issue its decision based upon the community of interest study, any meetings held with municipal officers and any other information relevant to the request for extended service within 30 days from the date of the public hearing.

§2605. Filings limited

In the event that extended area telephone service is denied by the Public Utilities Commission to a telephone exchange, the commission shall not order another community of interest study for extended area service for the telephone exchange with the same exchange as previously requested for at least 3 years from the date the commission issued its previous decision.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to provide guidelines for the implementation of a community of interest study for extended area telephone service and to require public hearings to obtain public testimony. The amendment also prohibits the implementation of the same community of interest study more than once every 3 years.

Reported by the Committee on Public Utilities.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
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