

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

(Filing No. H-860)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 1669, L.D. 1867, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide Lifeline Electrical Services."

Amend the Bill by striking out at the beginning of the first line after the enacting clause the underlined abbreviation and figure "Sec. 1."

Further amend the Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§83." by inserting after the first paragraph the following:

'1. 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, nontaxable 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.'

Further amend the Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§83." by renumbering subsections 1 and 2 to be subsections 2 and 3.

Further amend the Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§84." in subsection 2 by striking out all of paragraph B and inserting in its place the following:

'B. For the 2nd 500 kilowatt hours utilized each month under the provisions of this chapter, the rate shall be a flat per kilowatt hour rate which is determined by taking the applicable residential base bill amount for a monthly usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours, adding to it the average monthly fuel adjustment charge for the preceding calendar year and subtracting from that sum the monthly amount for 500 kilowatt hours of usage as determined by paragraph A.

C. For the utilization of electricity in excess of 1,000 kilowatt hours per month, the regular applicable residential rate shall apply.'

Further amend the Bill in section 1 by striking out all of that part designated "§85." and inserting in its place the following:

'§85. Eligibility

To be eligible for the lifeline rate, each residential customer shall be an older citizen as defined in this part. To be eligible, the older citizen and all other persons

living in the older citizen's household who is not a tenant shall have a combined annual adjusted gross income of \$6,500 or less. In order to obtain a lifeline rate, an older citizen shall apply to the Public Utilities Commission or an agency designated by the commission for approval. The older citizen shall provide the commission or agency with all the necessary information to determine whether the older citizen is eligible.'

Further amend the Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§86." by striking out all of subsections 3 and 4.

Further amend the Bill in section 1 by inserting at before the statement of fact the end/the following:

'§87. Support information; state agencies

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 Lifeline Electrical Service Act.

§88. Reimbursement to utility

Lost revenues resulting from a lifeline rate shall be deemed to be a cost of service for purposes of determining just and reasonable rates under sections 51, 69 and 294.

§89. Filing of lifeline rate

1. General rate filing. Any change in rates made by an electrical company pursuant to section 64 after the effective date of this Act shall include a separate classification for lifeline service which conforms to the requirements of section 84.

2. Further requirement for filing of lifeline rate. If an electrical company has no separate classification for lifeline service which conforms to the requirements of section 84 on January 1, 1979, it shall file such a rate pursuant to section 64, either as an individual rate change or as part of a change in any or all of its rate classifications.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out all of section 2.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a lifeline electrical rate for the state's low income elderly within the next year and 1/2. It further requires all electrical companies to file with the Public Utilities Commission on or before January 1, 1979, a lifeline rate. It also clarifies the calculation of rates under the lifeline program so that any lifeline customer who uses in excess of 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month will owe the same amount for electricity as a regular residential customer.

Filed by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

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

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