

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Filing No. H-918)

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT "M" to S.P. 590, L.D. 1896, Bill, "AN ACT to Make Additional Corrections of Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine."

Amend the bill by inserting after section 13 the following:

Sec. 13-A. 5 MRSA §8-B, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 78, §3-A, is further amended by adding after the 4th sentence the following new sentence to read:

Where practical and appropriate, such costs should be charged directly to the State employee by the utility or other provider.

Sec. 13-B. 5 MRSA §8-B, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 78, §3-A, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit charges to any State employee provided with State housing, either through direct billing or through reimbursement to the State, for such ordinary and necessary services as heating, electricity, water, sewer, propane gas and telephones not used primarily for State business.

Statement of Fact

This amendment is intended to clarify the propriety of having utilities bill State employees in State housing directly for such services as water, heat, sewer, propane gas and electricity. In instances where the State is presently being billed for such services and must, in turn, bill the employees in State housing, there are unnecessary administrative and budgetary inconveniences. This amendment will not result in additional charges to any State employees.

This amendment is also to eliminate disparate treatment whereby certain employees who live in State housing as a condition of employment are not required to pay such ordinary expenses as heat, electricity and lights while others are required to do so. Individuals required as a condition of employment to live in State housing and who earn less than the statutory amount prescribed would still not be charged for such costs as rent, maintenance and insurance.

Filed by Mr. Gray of Rockland.

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