

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1041

H. P. 837

House of Representatives, March 5, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Davies of Orono, referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

Cosponsors: Ms. Brown of Gorham, Miss Brown of Bethel and Mr. McKean of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Prohibit Rate Discrimination by Public Utilities.

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

35 MRSA § 102 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 102. Discrimination prohibited

1. **Unreasonable differences in rates or service prohibited.** No public utility shall make or grant any preference or advantage to any corporation or person or subject any person or corporation to any disadvantage with respect to rates or other charges, services or facilities. No public utility shall establish or maintain any unreasonable difference with respect to rates or other charges, services, facilities or in any respect between localities or between classes of service.

2. **Solar energy.** No public utility providing electrical or gas service shall consider the use of solar energy by a customer as a basis for establishing higher rates or charges for energy or service sold to the customer.

3. **Utility services to be expedient.** Every public utility, upon reasonable notice, shall furnish, to all persons who may apply for facilities and service, suitable facilities and service without delay and without discrimination.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to provide more precise standards and definitions with respect to service and rates of public utilities. This bill also prohibits public utility discrimination against users of solar energy who also use electricity or natural gas. Since present law does not prohibit discrimination against users of solar energy, this provision is essential as more and more solar energy homes are constructed in Maine.